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Andorra A 200	India IN 50	Poland Z 2.00
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Bhutan B 1.00	Lucembourg L 100	Switzerland SF 200
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Sport 96



- The £15 million man: why Alan Shearer is a bargain
- Latest from Atlanta
- 66-1 shock for Goodwood
- County championship in the unique sports tabloid

Happy birthday Edinburgh Festival

Review

Plus: why women are taking over the orchestra's, the new Ben Elton

The 'fattest cat' who is set to make £40m in just seven months

Keith Harper and Dan Atkinson

A FORMER British Rail terminal manager, Sandy Anderson, was last night set to reap a bonus of £39.9 million made in only seven months from the sale of his train leasing company, in what was described by Labour as "the biggest privatisation scandal of them all".

Mr Anderson, managing director of the Porterbrook leasing company, and three directors, will become multi-millionaires if Stagecoach, the bus and train operator, gets official clearance for its £475 million bid for the company. They were immediately nicknamed "fat cat controllers" by Labour's shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown.

During the seven month period, Porterbrook has seen its original stake of £18 million increase by more than 500 per cent to £80 million.

With three colleagues — finance director, Ray Cork; engineering director, Tim Gilberts; and chairman, Peter Watson — Mr Anderson holds 15.76 per cent of the company. Their share was valued at £74.86 million, but Mr Anderson had the lion's share at 8.4 per cent.

Mr Anderson started out as terminal manager for BR's container handling subsidiary, Freightliner. He is a former director of the leasing company, TTP, for which he worked for 12 years. He was then managing director of a trailer rental company for six years. He has been at Porterbrook for two years.

Mr Anderson's other colleagues will receive lesser benefits.

Mr Cork's share of the



Sandy Anderson, set for a bonus of almost £40 million from the sale of Porterbrook

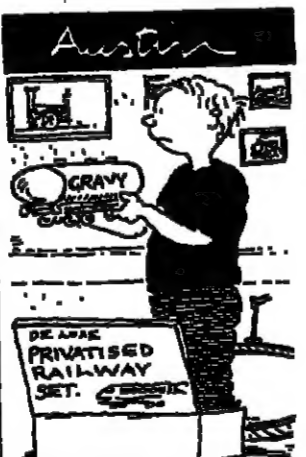
company is 3.68 per cent. He will get £18.43 million; Mr Gilbert's share is 2.46 per cent. He will receive £11.78 million; Mr Watson's share is 1 per cent. His stake is valued at £4.75 million.

When their company was set up last November, they and the rest of the 49 staff put up £15 million of the £75 million initial equity, with the rest financed by the merchant bank, Charterhouse, and bank debt.

Porterbrook is the smallest of the three companies which own rolling stock run by train operating companies.

Its total purchase was financed by £527 million of venture capital. The Government has guaranteed 80 per cent of its revenue for eight years.

City sources last night said that the pay-outs were unprecedented. But they



pointed out that huge sums have been made from selling off of the public utilities. Labour called for an investigation by the Commons public accounts committee and said that further

Management buy-outs and trade sales

Number: 49

Proceeds (to August, 1995): £1,844bn

Biggest deals:

British Coal: £820 million

Northern Ireland Generating Companies: £186 million

National Bus Company subsidiaries: £149 million

British Shipbuilders: more than £54 million

Source: HM Treasury

disclosures would emerge in the aftermath of the break-up of British Rail.

The shadow chancellor said that the scale of Porterbrook's profits showed BR had been "massively

undervalued" by the Government and the managers were now cashing in at the taxpayer's expense.

BR was originally valued at £8.4 billion, but the core of its operation, Railtrack, was eventually sold off for only £1.9 billion.

The Department of Transport said last night that the rise in the value of Porterbrook was a mark of the success of privatisation.

Porterbrook, which leases 3,774 trains to 16 rail companies, has not ordered new rolling stock since it was set up. This reflects the continuing lack of investment in the industry.

Stagecoach, which entered the rail business when it took over South West Trains from BR in February, has made it clear that it will withdraw the offer for Porterbrook if it is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

New scare wrecks beef truce

Stephen Bates in Brussels, Paul Brown and Michael White

THE Government's hopes of an early lifting of the beef ban were dashed last night as the European Commission made clear that its admission that BSE can be transmitted from cows to their calves had ruled any chance of the phased ending of the ban this autumn on which John Major pledged his authority.

Franz Fischler, the European agriculture commissioner, interrupted his holiday to write to Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, saying that the implications of the step-by-step approach to lifting the ban agreed at the Florence summit would have to be reviewed.

The letter swiftly followed the Government's about-turn in accepting the possibility that BSE can be transmitted from mother to calf.

As EU vets met again in Brussels to discuss the crisis which has crippled the £800 million beef export industry and spread consumer panic through Europe, Mr Hogg and his officials insisted that the risk of maternal transmission was slight — no more than 1 per cent — and would have little impact on plans to slaughter an eventual total of more than 500,000 cattle.

But the announcement that more cattle will have to be slaughtered to another presentation setback for the embattled minister — even though ministers insisted that the hypothetical possibility of such a vertical method of transmitting BSE, through blood rather than feed or milk, was already part of Whitehall's calculations.

It seems likely that the European Commission will demand an even larger selective cull of British beef in an attempt to eradicate the disease. Another 50,000 animals may have to be slaughtered.

Cattle farmers, already reeling from the effects of 500,000 cattle over 30 months having to be burned instead of sold for human consumption, pleaded for more proof before another cull was ordered.

On top of this, another 120,000 productive dairy cows from BSE-infected herds are

Theory of maternal transmission is 'basically rubbish'
— Agriculture Ministry spokesman, 1994

Maternal transmission is of 'no significance to public health'
— David Maclean, Junior agriculture minister, 1991

There is a 'continuing lack of evidence of significant maternal or horizontal transmission'
— Gillian Shephard, Minister of Agriculture, 1994

'If maternal transmission does occur it is unlikely to be a major feature of this disease'
— Keith Meldrum, Chief Veterinary Officer, 1991

due to be culled to satisfy the Florence summit conditions. The admission came on the day when the ban on owning tainted feed came into effect and the ministry was forced to confirm Opposition taunts that Mr Major's hopes of getting the EU ban on beef by-

products — tallow and bull semen — lifted by yesterday was still untroubled in technical problems.

The results published yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture show that, in a control study, 42 calves born of 272 cattle which had died of BSE subsequently developed the disease themselves.

This means that the mother, though apparently healthy at the time, had passed on the infection to their unborn cows. A control group of the same size and age produced only 13 offspring with BSE, the source of their infection being unknown.

This has convinced the ministry that "maternal transmission", a possibility which it had long sought to dismiss, is in fact happening. It had been getting increasingly difficult to explain how there had been 28,422 cases of BSE in cattle born since the ban on feed contaminated by animal protein was imposed in 1989, only 1,203 of which were the offspring of diseased animals.

It means that BSE will continue into the British herd into the next century. If Mr Hogg's optimistic forecasts of yesterday are correct, it will not die out for 12 years unless a further cull is instituted.

The National Farmers' Union said that there was no scientific justification for another round of culling, it "was merely political expediency". The Country Landowners' Association said: "These findings should be researched turn to page 3, column 1

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Details, page 4

Down in the meadow, you might cure the blues



Hypericum perforatum... anti-depressant properties

Chris Mills Medical Correspondent

FORGET the Prozac — a trip down to a chalky field during July to September to look for a stalky plant with vivid yellow leaves edged with tiny black beads may be just as effective in dispelling the blues.

Scientists today are reporting that the common wildflower known as St John's Wort is an effective treatment for mild and moderate depression.

The plant, *Hypericum perforatum*, performed significantly better than dummy pills in treating depression

and was as effective as conventional anti-depressants in some studies.

Researchers from Germany and America have re-examined 32 studies covering a total of 1,787 patients with mild or moderate depression who had been treated with extracts of hypericum.

The scientists, led by Dr Klaus Linde, of the Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, say: "Hypericum extracts were significantly superior to placebo and similarly effective as standard antidepressants."

The researchers, reporting the findings in the British Medical Journal, point out that St John's Wort has been

used in folk medicine for hundreds of years for a range of conditions, including depression.

In Germany, where herbal medicines are widely licensed, more than 2.7 million prescriptions were written by doctors for hypericum preparations in 1993, at a cost of around £26 million.

The doctors say that the treatment is highly popular in German-speaking countries but virtually unknown in the English-speaking world.

They add that had they only looked at scientific studies on the plant published in English during their review of clinical trials, they would

have failed to find one. The researchers say that wider studies need to be carried out, looking in more detail at what types of preparations of hypericum are most effective, and at which doses.

There was also a need for further "head to head" trials in comparison with conventional anti-depressants.

However, a low cost remedy with few side-effects would be a valuable addition to the armoury of family doctors, where most people initially go for treatment of depression.

According to a recently published book on herbal medicines, by Penelope Ody, editor of the magazine of the Herb Society, St John's Wort

has traditionally been used for inflammation and burns, but is also useful for depression, nervous tension, and emotional upsets associated with the menopause.

She points out that St John's Wort is an excellent example of the Doctrine of Signatures — a medieval theory which maintained that, on the grounds of their appearance, plants would suggest their beneficial properties.

St John's Wort yields a red oil when infused, and the leaves appear to have holes in them, although these are oil sacs, so that it was deemed suitable for healing wounds and burns.

Inside

Britain
Fertility experts expressed sadness and frustration as they started destroying more than 3,300 'unwanted' embryos.

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World News
The most serious leadership squabbles since it came to power in 1994 have riven South Africa's African National Congress.

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Finance
House prices are rising at their fastest for seven years as consumer confidence returns to levels seen in the late '80s boom.

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Sport
Alan Shearer's £15 million signing appears a huge gamble, but Newcastle could well make millions on the deal. Sport96

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Sketch

P is for recovery in feelgood Essex



John Ezard

ESSEX Ford is on Cherrystone East, one of those optimistically named, tedious highways which have sucked the character from nearly all southern towns. But at midnight yesterday it hummed with adrenalin like a Grand Prix starting grid. Mechanics and sales staff did final checks as scores of P-reg cars, packed with couples, children and friends, lined up revving outside the showroom. As the hour struck, they drove out in a jubilant cavalcade, horns blaring and hazard lights flashing "just to show people they had arrived", the dealers' chairman, Philip Maskell, said.

Review

Struggling with Eliot's posers

Michael Billington

Murder in The Cathedral

Amelia Theatre

THIS is a strange occasion: a production in Romanian of T S Eliot's 1935 verse-drama played by a new company, Art-Inter Odeon. When one learns that it was formed from the relics of the oppressed Odeon Theatre Bucharest, that it is homeless, struggling and independent, and that it is heavily involved with a Romanian orphanage, one desperately wants it to succeed; and one can truthfully say that this production by Mihai Maniutiu (who last year directed The Shrew at the Haymarket, Leicester) shows evidence of a powerful and disciplined theatrical imagination. How well it serves Eliot's intention is more open to debate.

Home Office fires back at gun lobby violence link

Alan Travis

Home Affairs Editor

THE Home Office has clashed with the gun lobby over links between legal gun ownership and crime. The Home Office published a robust defence of research demonstrating a link after Lord Cullen, who is heading the Dublin massacre inquiry, asked officials to comment on

were round 900, catastrophically below break-even. In 1994 they were 475, last year 570. It has been a long haul. "I don't think the feelgood factor is electric - but it's back," he said. Asked about the political implications, he said: "It's difficult. There are a lot of hurt people in this area who had faith in the 90s, who changed their lifestyle and then had to revert. These people have long memories about being let down."

In the showroom, Gordon and Benita Jones, in their sixties, hadn't risked picking up their Mondeo Mistral at the party. It was her ruby wedding present, aged 32, a bank manager from Stamford in Hope, collecting an Escort 16V, said: "For me the feelgood factor never went away. I have a cheap mortgage and a reasonably secure job. I find that for most people, though, it's hardly back at all."

Two couples collecting new cars, Christopher and Christine Belcher and John and Sheila Harwood, disagreed over whether the recovery was real. Mrs Harwood said it wasn't and the Tories would lose Basildon. Mr Belcher said: "Things are improving in the run-up to the election."

Emma Pigram, aged 17, from Canvey Island, was in with her boyfriend Paul Ford, 19, to buy a Fiesta. Paul, who has cystic fibrosis, paid for it with a notability grant. Emma, who said she had never known anything except the recession, itemised what it meant to her: "Walking through Basildon and nearly every shop being empty."

"Stops closing down in Canvey. Two of our friends not being able to afford a pushchair for their baby. Seeing a character called Loadsamoney on television as a kid and not pushing his sights too high. His mother assured me he really was serious about wanting to become a profes-

sional player, so I went next door to see the careers teacher, Jimmy Nelson, an ex-pro who had coached Newcastle Juniors. "I asked Jimmy about his chances and he said, 'If he gets stuck in, he can make it.' I repeated this to Alan and added, 'Whatever success you have, come back and share it with Newcastle.'"

Mr Wallace, aged 55, maintains that he gave the young Shearer every encouragement but also advised him to concentrate on his exams so that he would have academic qualifications to fall back on

if he failed in football. The deputy headmaster, who now claims that he was only joking when he made the "Pull the other one" remark, has indulged in a touch of talent spotting once before.

Two decades before Shearer came to the school, Mr Wallace told off one of his pupils for playing a guitar, telling him he would "never get anywhere playing that kind of stuff."

Mark Knopfler obviously did not take this comment to heart and recently quit Dire Straits after earning around \$50 million from worldwide hits.

Mr Wallace said: "He was twanging some dirge-like tune. I took him to one side and told him he would never get anywhere playing that kind of stuff. Now look at him - a multi-millionaire."

An avid Newcastle fan, Mr Wallace said that he was delighted when Shearer signed for the club and is looking forward to seeing him in action.

More importantly, he says, he is relieved that the careers advice he gave to the young Shearer fell on deaf ears.

Mr Wallace added: "The school is very proud of Alan and on several occasions we have used him as a role model in assemblies about how pupils should conduct themselves."

Company risks entering legal morass as it takes on American operator over 'malicious false claims'

BT sues rival in price war

Simon Hewitt

Industrial Editor

SIGNS that Britain's increasingly competitive telecommunications market could deteriorate into a legal morass came yesterday as BT, itself facing allegations of misleading customers about its rivals, served notice that it was to sue America's biggest long-distance operator, AT&T.

The privatised group - which still dominates the British market but is facing competition from more than 150 companies - said it was taking legal action against

AT&T for making "malicious" false statements about BT's prices and for infringing its trademark.

BT is to make a full statement of claim in the High Court by the end of next week. AT&T said BT's allegations were unfounded, and observers expect the legal battle may not be resolved until the autumn.

The legal move appears to centre on an AT&T brochure which, according to BT, claims that it could offer customers lower charges on nearly all national and international phone services.

It is thought that AT&T used the BT logo in the brochure in a table setting out to take legal action against

customer base from competition. "This is a strong arm tactic and we and our lawyers are confident that we can substantiate our claims," the company said.

BT's action is not the first of its kind in the UK market. Last year the mobile phone company Orange was sued for malicious falsehood and infringement of trademark by its rival Vodafone. Vodafone lost a fact that Orange exploited in follow-on advertising.

But the battle is evidence of a marked shift in the UK telecommunications market and in other industries where former state-owned monopolies are facing competition and are willing to turn to litigation to help fight market

between BT and Ofcom. The watchdog has given the company until today to agree to a new set of price caps and accept new powers for Ofcom to investigate and penalise anti-competitive behaviour by BT.

The company - which is happy with the price caps - claims that the new powers would leave it with no adequate right of appeal against misleading information to customers contemplating switching to cable companies.

Yesterday Ofcom said it was aware of fresh instances where the market leader had misused customer information to lure back defecting customers. The company is accused of failing to stop its staff using ex-directory numbers of customers who had transferred to cable services.

The allegations about BT's practices and its own litigation come in the midst of a separate but related row be-

Shearer 'failed to score with his head'

Careers advice

was offside, writes Vivek Chaudhary

THE gangly schoolboy, accompanied by his mother, walked into the deputy headmaster's office for a bit of end of term careers advice, but was in little doubt about what he wanted to be.

However, when the lad said he wanted to become a professional footballer, Ram Wallace, deputy head of Gosforth High School, Newcastle upon Tyne, told him: "Pull the other one."

Two years and this week's £15 million transfer fee later, Mr Wallace is left eating a fairly large slice of humble pie after revealing that the 16-year-old was Alan Shearer, Newcastle United's world record signing.

Mr Wallace said: "I remember I was allocated to interview Alan before he was due to leave Gosforth High. I thought at the time I was being level-headed with him and not pushing his sights too high. His mother assured me he really was serious about wanting to become a profes-



Mark Knopfler... early efforts were 'dirge-like'

sional player, so I went next door to see the careers teacher, Jimmy Nelson, an ex-pro who had coached Newcastle Juniors.

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Starlets who confounded their critics

"We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out." - Decca records rejecting The Beatles in 1962.

"The biggest no talent I ever worked with." - Decca boss rejecting Buddy Holly.

"I give the Rolling Stones about another two years." - Mick Jagger in 1964.

"Can't act. Can't sing. Slightly bald. Can dance a little." - Film company's verdict on Fred Astaire's 1959 screen test.

"You have a chip on your tooth, your Adam's apple sticks out too far and you talk too slow." - Film executive rejecting Clint Eastwood in 1959.

"Reagan doesn't have the presidential look." - Film producer rejecting Ronald Reagan, for the role of president, in 1964.

"You ought to go back to driving a truck." - Concert manager, firing Elvis Presley in 1954.

"Forget it. No Civil War picture ever made a nickel." - MGM executive advising against investing in Gone With The Wind.

"You'd better learn secularial skills or else get married." - Modelling agency rejecting Marilyn Monroe in 1944.

"That rainbow song's no good. Take it out." - MGM memo after the initial showing of The Wizard of Oz, referring to Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

"It will never be generally read." - Newspaper review of Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights in 1849.

"We are willing to return the manuscript." - Publisher rejecting Jane Austen's novel, Northanger Abbey.

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"You'd better learn sec-



'No hoppers'... Buddy Holly (left), Fred Astaire, Ronald Reagan and Marilyn Monroe

Cuba trial for US fugitive

Businessman accused of state fraud and economic crimes

Oliah Greene in Havana

AMERICA'S most notorious fugitive businessman, Robert Vesco, went on trial in Havana yesterday charged with economic crimes against the Cuban government which has shielded him since 1982 from legal proceedings in the United States.

The prosecutor, Edelmir Rodriguez Yumar, alleged Mr Vesco had violated Cuba's stringent laws on commercial activity and committed fraud against the state. He faces a possible sentence of 30 years.

He is accused of trying to develop and market a drug for cancer and arthritis without the government's knowledge. His wife, Lidia Alfonso, faces similar charges.

In poor health for some time, Mr Vesco, aged 61, has been in a military hospital since December, US officials said. He is considered the most notorious of the estimated 100

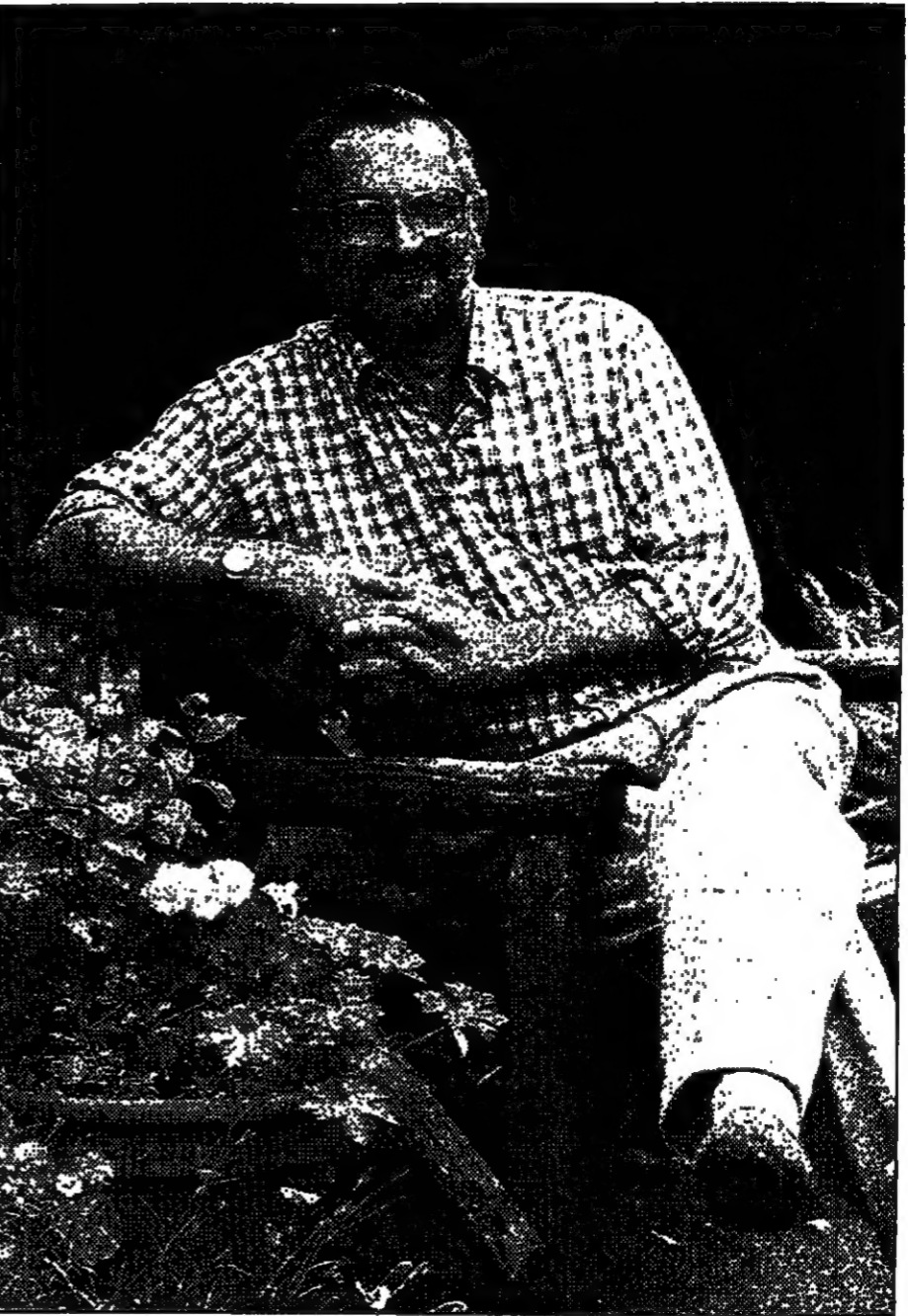
foreign companies that violated the terms of his contract with Cuba, the Cuban company Labiofarm, and the interests of the Cuban medical industry.

The charge sheet said he proposed a study of the drug to the health ministry, which authorised the research. But Mr Vesco, who was not supposed to engage in business as a condition of obtaining residence, sought foreign investors in the project, persuading them he had official approval.

He pocketed most of the funds and formed a company to market the drug without registering it in Cuba, the charge sheet said.

His close friend Donald Nixon, nephew of the late US president, was arrested with Mr Vesco and questioned before being allowed to return to the US. He had arrived in Cuba in 1992 to enlist Mr Vesco's help in arranging for Cuban doctors to test a drug he believed was effective in treating cancer and arthritis.

Mr Nixon said his interrogators had believed the project was a cover for a CIA operation - a claim denied by the CIA.



Ram Wallace, high school deputy head and failed talent spotter

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Illustrations from a French manual on camouflage, published circa 1920, which seek to demonstrate the possibilities of imaginative military costume

Artists who became masters of disguise

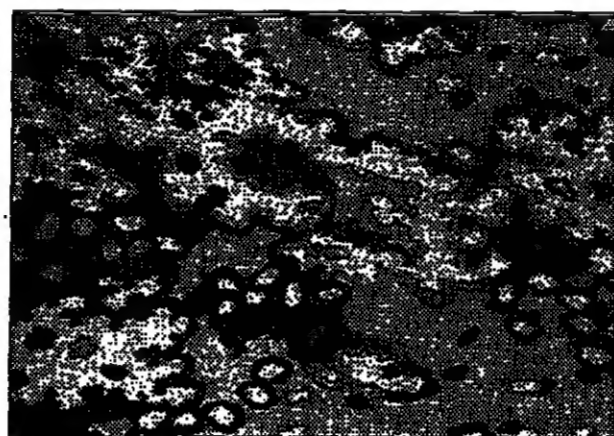
David Fairhall on revelations in a new study on the craft of camouflage

THE British army of the first world war had its Artists' Rifles. The French had Les Peintres de la Guerre au Camouflage, a group of painters who specialised in the new-found military art — prompted by the appearance of reconnaissance aircraft over the battlefield — of disguising gun positions and later individual soldiers with patterned camouflage.



US army's 'chocolate chip' pattern, as seen in the Gulf war

By the end of the war the French had camouflage workshops employing more than 1,000 men and 8,000 women. The British military brass decided that perhaps the French were on to something. They assembled their own camouflage team, involving artists like Solomon J. Solomon and Harry Paget.



The tree motif favoured by the Waffen-SS in world war two

from Manet to Kandinsky. Picasso was among those who grasped the artistic, as well as the military, potential in all this. On seeing a camouflaged cannon in the streets of Paris, he cried out: "It is we who created that".

The British army, which for decades has stuck to its four-colour DPM (Disruptive Pattern Material), is working on hi-tech developments for its next range of uniforms. These include light-sensitive 'chameleon' camouflage, that changes to suit the background. Brassy's Book of Camouflage by Tim Newark and Quentin Newark, £25

Acquittal of war criminal angers Italy

John Hooper, Southern Europe Correspondent

WHAT had been billed as the world's last Nazi war crimes trial ended in uproar last night with a military court in Rome ruling the defendant was guilty, but unconvicted.



Erich Priebke: trial was swamped by controversy

Erich Priebke, a former SS officer, had admitted taking part in Italy's most notorious wartime atrocity. But the judges decided by a majority that his crimes were covered by a statute of limitation.

Screams of disbelief erupted from relatives of the victims as they watched the reading of the verdict on closed circuit television in an adjoining room. The court decided that Priebke, aged 83, could not be held to have acted in a cruel or premeditated way because he was obeying orders.

playing a leading role in the killing of 335 Italians in retaliation for a partisan bomb attack on German soldiers. He refused to testify in person, but in a written submission to the court admitted taking off the names of the victims as they entered the caves south of Rome and shooting two of them personally.

Armando Cossutta said: "The crimes of this delinquent, murdering butcher Priebke can never be expunged by a statute of limitation in the minds of the Italian people." A centre-left MP announced he would be tabling a bill for the abolition of Italy's military courts. But the film director Franco Zeffirelli, a former partisan and now a senator for Silvio Berlusconi's right-of-centre Forza Italia party, felt it was "right to place a stone over such distant, unclear events from the past".

"I am sorry for what happened. I've lived all this time with it weighing on my heart. But it was a legitimate reprisal," he wrote. The victims, including 75 Jews, were ordered to be shot on the basis of 10 for each dead German. Priebke displayed almost no emotion during the three-month trial, sitting impassive through evidence that he had detained at the Gestapo headquarters in Rome.

Both petitions were based on evidence that the presiding judge, Agostino Quistelli, had advocated Priebke's acquittal in a conversation held before he was allotted the case. One of Italy's most distinguished jurists, Paolo Barile, said last night that a crucial error had been made in allowing Priebke to be tried by a military, rather than civilian, court. "He wasn't a soldier, but an officer in the SS, a unit which required an oath of absolute loyalty. He put himself in the position of not being able to refuse an order."

Peace Corps sex battle settled

Male worker wins record pay-out after harassment by woman boss

Ian Katz in New York

THE United States government has agreed to pay \$250,000 (£166,800) to a married Peace Corps worker who accused his female boss of trying to bully him into having an affair. The settlement is believed to be the biggest pay-out by the government to a male employee alleging sexual harassment by a female superior.

Raymond Millikin, aged 55, claimed that Deborah Holt Kirk, at the time inspector-general of the organisation that sends young Americans to do volunteer work abroad, frequently called him into her office then tried to grab and kiss him. According to Mr Millikin, Ms Kirk began making advances after announcing plans to reorganise her department and asking whether he would like to be her deputy.

When he eventually complained, Mr Millikin said Ms Kirk and other managers punished him by giving him tedious work and criticising his performance. Under the settlement, Mr Millikin has agreed to resign from the Peace Corps. He plans to move to a 55-acre ranch in Montana. Ms Kirk resigned in April 1995, because, according to her lawyer, "she had a medical issue and decided to move on".

The settlement is far from the biggest awarded to any male employee. In Los Angeles, in 1994, a male worker at a hot-tub manufacturer won \$1 million in damages after claiming that his female boss made unwanted sexual advances almost daily. However Mr Millikin's lawyer, Gary Simpson, told the Washington Post that the payment indicated that "the government has acknowledged that the harm done to a man or a woman in one of these sex power plays is totally and utterly unacceptable".

New BSE scare wrecks Major's hopes on lifting beef ban

continued from page 1 properly before there is any more culling." However, Mr Hogg said: "We shall need to take stock of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed selective cull of cattle, and what basis of selection stands to produce the most effective acceleration in the decline of BSE."

Labour's spokesman, Frank Dobson, said the statement might offer "some reassurance". But the Liberal Democrat MP Paul Tyler complained that it showed yet again "a complete lack of common sense".

There was uncertainty over Mr Hogg's Commons statement on July 24 when he said that feed was "the historic and by far the most important cause of BSE" — five days after his committee of experts had considered the mother-calf link, of which he made no mention.

One bright spot for the Government was that the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, which advises the Government on BSE and its human equivalent CJD, said no further action was needed to protect public health in light of the findings.

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The nationalist issue is not going to go away and is likely to haunt the Edinburgh Festival in the future even more than in the past.

Michael Billington

Review cover story

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Government's credibility is undermined and culling will have to be reviewed, but spokesmen maintain disease will die out by 2008

Ministry sticks to its guns over BSE

Officials insist calf infection changes little

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

THE admission yesterday that cows can pass on BSE to their calves is another setback in a series of public relations disasters for the Ministry of Agriculture in recent months. Despite increasing evidence to the contrary, the ministry has stuck to the line that "maternal transmission of BSE" was unlikely. Its whole case has been based on the fact that cattle that have suffered BSE had acquired it through eating contaminated feed.

Yesterday, however, it was finally conceded that cows can and do pass on BSE to their offspring, and that wiping out the disease would prove harder as a result. The whole culling programme of cattle which had come into contact with BSE would have to be reviewed, because it was based on the belief that

the date when BSE can be eradicated and the time when European confidence in British beef will be restored.

Although experts outside the ministry, notably Stephen Dealler, a statistician, have demonstrated to Seac that vertical transmission was occurring, the conclusive proof came from one of the ministry's own experiments.

In 1989 two groups of 300 animals were isolated, one the offspring of confirmed cases of BSE and the other from cows in the same herd and the same age whose mothers had not suffered the disease.

The results so far are that of the 273 animals that have died or been killed from the first group 42 had developed BSE, but in the second group only 13 had developed the disease. The ministry says this provides evidence that the risk of maternal transmission is 10 per cent for the BSE-infected cows.

Milk has been ruled out as a way of passing the infection, and the most likely explanation is that the calf caught it while still in the womb. This theory has yet to be proved but the calves most likely to be infected appeared to be from mothers who were in the later stages of the disease at the time of their pregnancy.

However, despite the 10 per cent transmission figure the ministry claims the risk of passing BSE from one generation to the next is as little as 1 per cent in "field conditions" because under normal conditions only one in 10 calves live to have calves of their own.

The ministry reasons that the steep decline in new cases of BSE will continue and that the disease will die out unaided in two generations. Since the average dairy cow lives six years, BSE will naturally disappear by 2008, the ministry claimed yesterday.

Cows over 30 months old killed to date

cows 106,000
steers 84,000
heifers 28,000
bulls 2,500
Total 310,000

Number of BSE cases slaughtered to date

1988 2,576
1989 8,061
1990 16,541
1991 29,027
1992 43,155
1993 41,085
1994 28,733
1995 17,122
1996 6,216

'Conclusive proof came from one of the ministry's own experiments'

maternal transmission did not occur.

There was no sign yesterday that the ministry had learnt lessons from previous disasters. The worst came in March when, after years of insisting that there was absolutely no possibility of human infection from BSE, ministers had to concede there was.

As each chapter in the BSE crisis has unfolded, officials have had to concede that previous reassurances were over-optimistic, or that officially ridiculed theories were correct after all.

There was no sign yesterday that the ministry had broken the habit. Within minutes of conceding that vertical transmission did occur, officials were trying to reassure people it did not really matter. The number of cases was so small as to make little difference to BSE's eventual extinction.

The Government's independent scientific committee the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) agreed that the new findings do not pose an increased risk to public health, but they do further undermine the credibility of the ministry as far as the culling programme is concerned. It also pushes back



Despite the threat to his income of yet more bad news about BSE, Stephen Wharfe takes pleasure in the birth of another calf on his Knutsford, Cheshire, farm. PHOTOGRAPH: HOWARD BARLOW

Farmers philosophical over latest blow to livelihood

'The scare has been out of all proportion to the risk'

David Ward

UNDER a Cheshire sky filled with swooping house martins, a four-hour-old calf with slightly unsteady legs snuffed the air while her mother, a Friesian cow called Number 27, looked on protectively.

Across the field, a Hereford bull wondered if he was the father. He wasn't the calf, and four others born yesterday on a 200-acre farm near Knutsford, were the products of artificial insemination.

As the calf began to suckle, farmer Stephen Wharfe sighed with satisfaction. "That's what we want to see," he explained. "They need to start taking milk within 12 hours. They have to take in colostrum, which is rich in essential antibodies."

Yet more bad news from the Ministry of Agriculture could not detract from the basic joy of the life cycle repeating itself. Mr Wharfe, a farmer for 35 years, enjoys his job but is frustrated at the way the BSE crisis has developed —

and at the drop in his income.

"I've always maintained that the chances of getting BSE are like a blind man looking in a dark room for a black hat that isn't there," he said.

The fact that scientists have now decided that 1 per cent of calves will inherit BSE from their mothers is neither here nor there; things cannot get much worse than they already are, yesterday's pretty little black and white calf will fetch just £100 when she goes to Chelford market in a couple of weeks. A year ago she would have sold for £250.

Mr Wharfe had one case of BSE in his herd three

years ago, but has been clear since. "There were 3,000 cases a week then, when BSE was at its height. Now there are about 200.

The compensation system worked very well and made sure that nothing could slip through the net."

Ask Mr Wharfe for his views about how the Government, public and media have reacted to BSE scares this year and he talks of bewildered frustration.

"Farmers realise there is a problem but the scare has been out of all proportion to the risk. The risk of BSE is so small it's barely worth a mention."

Mr Wharfe, needless to say, has not given up beef. He is deeply worried by the

nation's shift to vegetarianism, a shift which has galloped ahead during the last year of confusion and panic.

"BSE is on the way out. If this had blown up three years ago, it would have been much easier to have understood the future that has been created. It seems tragic when we were getting on top of the situation."

"Over the years we have had lots of eradication schemes in agriculture. Tuberculosis was eradicated in the fifties, brucellosis in the seventies. People possibly had more to fear from those two than they will ever fear from BSE."

"The problem has been

hypped up out of all proportion. We are being asked to do the impossible and prove a negative. But everything we consume has an element of risk, and beef is no exception."

Draconian measures, including the slaughter of 500,000 cows, have been introduced to get rid of BSE; in that context the latest ministry finding is academic, almost irrelevant.

"It doesn't really change things. Nothing else will have to be done because of it. One per cent of a declining number of infected cows isn't going to be significant. The only worry we have is that various people will hype this up, as they did last week with sheep."

Raiders handcuff mother of Greek tycoon

THE mother-in-law of a Greek brandy tycoon was recovering last night after raiders burst into the family's home and handcuffed her to the bannisters before escaping with thousands of pounds in cash and jewellery.

Stephanie Slater was ordered to open up a safe by the hooded gunmen at the £1 million home of Spyros Metaxas in Godalming, Surrey.

Once inside the house they fired two shots, one of which

injured a Rottweiler guard dog, and then ordered Mrs Slater, who was alone in the house, to open the safe.

Mrs Slater, in her 50s, eventually managed to free herself and raise the alarm at a neighbour's house.

Her daughter, Kimberley, and son-in-law, Spyros, who sold his stake in the multi-million pound family brandy business in 1988, were on holiday in the Greek islands.

In the last couple of years security has been stepped up at the 10-bed house, where the grounds are patrolled by security guards.

Detectives were trying to establish how the gang of four or five men managed to breach the tight security cordon and break into the mansion.

"They were wearing balaclavas to hide their faces and two of them were carrying firearms," said a police spokesman.

Time to pay £175,000 to reporter over KGB claim

Ian Katz in New York

TIME magazine yesterday agreed to pay £175,000 in compensation to an American journalist over an article in which it reported allegations that he accepted money from the KGB and was fed stories "without reservation" by the Soviet intelligence agency.

Dusko Doder, the former Moscow bureau chief of the Washington Post, has been

batting to clear his name since December 1993 when Time published the story giving details of a Soviet defector's claims that the journalist had been paid \$1,000 by a KGB agent.

In a statement read in the High Court in London yesterday, Time said it withdrew "without reservation" any disparagement of Mr Doder's reputation and professional integrity. The magazine conceded it had "no evi-

dence, and did not mean to suggest, that the KGB exercised control" over his reporting from Moscow.

In a statement, Mr Doder said: "I am deeply gratified that I have achieved complete vindication. It is a victory of an ordinary individual against a giant corporation."

Mr Doder, who is married to BBC journalist Louise Branson, has also reported for The European, the BBC and CNN.

North-east leads way with boom in numbers as leisure industry gears up

Cabbies learn service with a smile to woo more tourists

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

TAXI drivers, traffic wardens and dentists are being offered customer care courses by tourist chiefs anxious to improve Britain's reputation for service.

Day-long lessons that began within the hotel and holiday trade are being adapted to other fields, including GPs' surgeries, hospitals and town centre stores, as part of the battle to open up a safe by the hooded gunmen at the £1 million home of Spyros Metaxas in Godalming, Surrey.

Cabbies in Liverpool and Bournemouth are among those who have already undergone customer care training, learning about the value of tourism to the local economy and being schooled to monitor everything from local theatre productions to train times and coach tours.

Hugh Clark, trading policy director of the British Retail Consortium, said: "Americans tend to see service with charm as a skill and a requirement, whereas Britons find it difficult, almost implying subservience."

Northumbria ditches Andy Capp

Holidaymakers flock to unspoilt 'golden coast' to escape crowds

Peter Hetherington

SURVEYING the castle-topped coastline, the Cheviots and Hadrian's Wall country from the cottages at Beacon Hill Farm, the Graham family could not contain their enthusiasm. "Britain's best-kept secret," they chorused as the westerly cut through the trees, sending holidaymakers running for woolies. No one complained.

"Breath-taking countryside, always plenty for the kids and so quiet and peaceful — you can't beat it."

For the past five years Tina Graham, a consultant cardiac surgeon from Birmingham, his wife, Lorraine, and their four children have been coming to Clare Moore's small complex, built round a farm near Morpeth.

With an indoor pool, an offer, gym, children's indoor play area, and further adventure playgrounds, tennis courts, riding and much more, it has won a string of national awards,

often beating England's well-established holiday areas.

"People seem to be getting fed up with Devon and Cornwall," Clare says. She began converting farm buildings 10 years ago, then started adding more cottages. She rarely has vacancies. "We can offer so much in Northumberland and they just come back again and again. The message seems to be the same: other areas are getting a bit stale."

Figures yesterday from the English Tourist Board seem to bear out her view, with the Northumbria region — Durham, Cleveland, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland itself — becoming the greatest growth area for the British holidaymaker. Last year it showed a 23 per cent increase, pushing home-grown visitor numbers up to 2 million. They spent an estimated £250 million, 53 per cent more than 1994.

"At long last we're beginning to kick the old perceptions into touch," Peter

Destination	Trips	Nights	Spending
Cumbria	3.3	13.5	410
Northumbria	3.8	12.9	370
North West	6.6	28.2	1,080
York and Humb	10.2	35.2	850
East of England	9.6	27.8	715
East Midlands	8.0	27.0	710
East Anglia	11.0	41.6	960
London	10.4	25.0	880
West Country	15.8	73.9	2,220
Southern	12.4	38.5	1,100
South East	8.9	28.8	725

All figures expressed in millions

Sloyan, chief executive of the Northumbria Tourist Board, said: "You know: pit heaps, back-to-backs, whippets and Andy Capp. Like an old master, it seems we're being — discovered."

Instead, it is the quieter reaches of Northumberland, dubbed the "golden coast" in the latest tourist guide, the rolling hills of the north Pennines, Britain's least-known national park, and market towns like Morpeth that are drawing tourists.

With Newcastle at eighth place in one guide on the world's best partying cities, Mr Sloyan thinks the region might become fashionable.

Stewart Bonney, publisher and journalist, who has written the Golden

Privatised rail firms try to head off strikes

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE newly privatised train companies yesterday were preparing for talks with the rail unions to head off two 24-hour strikes before and after the August bank holiday which would seriously disrupt the rail network.

Conductors, ticket examiners and on-train catering staff at nine operating companies are threatening to strike on August 23 and 27 in two separate disputes over productivity, pay and refreshment breaks.

The strikes have been set to coincide with industrial action by London Underground drivers on those days. The drivers' series of one-day stoppages is set to continue into September. Their next strike is on Wednesday, with others on August 13 and September 5 and 9.

The Rail Maritime and Transport union yesterday wrote to the nine companies. They are North West Regional Railways, South Wales and West, Thames Trains, North London Railways, Great Western Trains, InterCity East Coast, Cross-Country Trains, Merseyside Electrics and Regional Railways North East.

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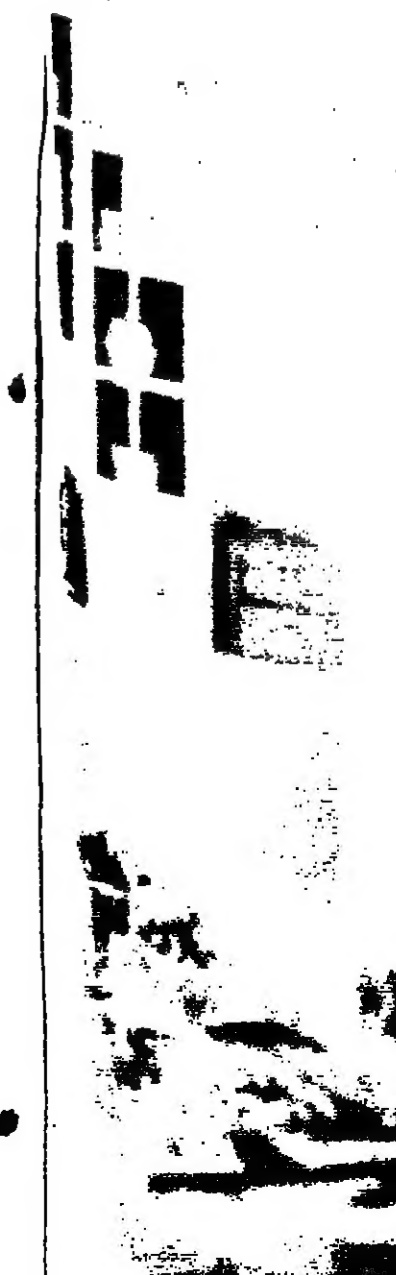
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Clinics start destruction of embryos

Chris Mihill
Medical Correspondent

FERTILITY experts spoke of the sadness and frustration yesterday as they went about the task of destroying thousands of embryos which have reached the end of their legal storage life.

The anti-abortion group Life claimed the embryos were being "deliberately put to death" and called on the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, to intervene. But Mr Harris said he had no powers to do so.

A law which came into effect in 1991 prevents embryos being stored for longer than five years, unless couples have consented to an extension of another five years. More than 3,300 will have been destroyed by tonight because their "parents" failed to respond to letters warning of the deadline.

Hundreds more are being disposed of because they are no longer wanted, or not being given to other couples or research. IVF specialist Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, said he had hoped for more time to trace the parents.

Thawing started when staff at the centre realised there

was no chance of a reprieve. "It has been very distressing and frustrating for everyone," he said.

Clinics should have been given another 12 months to get in touch with couples with embryos in storage, he added. He said phone calls from anxious "parents" around the world were received hours before the midnight deadline expired.

The head of Cambridge's Bourn Hall Clinic, where as many 800 embryos were being destroyed, spoke of his dismay at the legal necessity of the process.

Peter Brinsden, medical director, said: "I do not feel good about allowing one embryo to perish without a patient's permission, let alone 800 or 900."

Clinic staff had checked the morning post and faxes for last minute requests before starting the process at 8am. It was expected to last two days.

More than half the embryos came from people living in 60 different countries. Trying to get in touch with these patients had proved very difficult.

Dr Brinsden added that embryos were destroyed every day. However, yesterday was unique in that so many were being disposed of in one go and without the express permission of the couples involved.



Life on ice... Alison Hunter of the Nurture IVF clinic at Nottingham, with an embryo sample frozen in liquid nitrogen

News in brief

Boy hurt by blast on 'unfenced MoD land'

THE parents of a teenage boy criticised the army yesterday after he was injured by an explosive device on a military training range in Cornwall. Colin and Gill Richardson, from Belmont, Durham, condemned the "woefully inadequate" warning signs and claimed Simon, aged 14, would not have been hurt had the area been fenced. He is in a stable condition in hospital after suffering 10 per cent facial burns from an exploding thunder flash. The army began an inquiry into the incident, which happened on Wednesday after Simon picked up the device, used in the training camp at Penhale, Perranporth. He took it back to the nearby Perran Sands holiday centre, where he was on holiday with his parents, 12-year-old sister Joanne and eight-year-old brother Adam, and it exploded. Mr Richardson said his son had gone exploring sand dunes by the holiday site, then went on to unfenced MoD property posted with danger signs in "peeling" paint. He said the signs did not warn of any live objects which would "blow up and take your face off".

Lorry kills AA patrolman

AN AA mechanic and a lorry driver died on a motorway hard shoulder late on Wednesday night in an accident the organisation described as every patrolman's nightmare. The lorry ploughed into a patrolman's car on the M40 near Gaydon, Warwickshire. Warwickshire police said the car driver was seriously ill in hospital yesterday.

A spokesman Simon Wooding said Mr Jones had answered a routine call-out to a breakdown about 11.15-11.30pm. "I'm sure that if you asked all patrols out there what their greatest concern was, it would be an unfortunate incident just as this one was." Mr Jones, who was married with two children, operated in the Leamington Spa area of Warwickshire and had been with the AA since 1961.

Suffering for science

TWO researchers have suffered severe pain to produce the definitive advice on how to deal with a bee sting — get it out as quickly as possible. Tradition has it that a bee sting should be scraped off, never pinched out, but Kirk Vlascher and Richard Vetter say this is likely to slow down removal of the barb.

The entomologists, from the University of California, exposed themselves to 20 bee stings each on the forearm. Reporting their findings in the *Lancet*, they say stings have a piston and valve attached to a venom sac, and the longer they are left in the skin, the more venom is pumped in.

However, with African bees, which can be deadly and attack on large numbers, the researchers say it is more important to escape than worry about removing their stings.

Appeal hope for murderers

TWO men serving life sentences for six murders in the Glasgow "ice-cream wars" yesterday had their cases referred to the High Court as the first step to a possible appeal. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, has granted applications from Thomas Campbell and Joseph Steele to allow judges to review the cases to decide whether there should be an appeal against conviction.

Campbell and Steele received life sentences in 1984 for the murders of six members of the Doyle family by setting fire to their home in Ruchazie, Glasgow. An 18-month old baby was among the dead. The deaths were thought to be part of a vicious feud between gangs of Glasgow criminals fighting for control of ice cream van routes which it was said were being used for selling drugs. Campbell and Steele lost their appeals against conviction in 1985 but have continued to protest their innocence. Campbell's previous application to appeal was dismissed by the then secretary of state in 1990.

BBC and CNN raise stakes

A NEW phase of the global news battle between CNN and the BBC began yesterday. BBC World, the 24-hour news and information channel, is to launch in Latin America in the autumn, making it available in an additional 45 countries. Ted Turner's Atlanta-based news network, CNN International (CNNI), unveiled programmes to revolutionise its rolling news format with a British presenter.

BBC World, which is facing an uphill struggle to challenge CNN's international supremacy, will be available in Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico from next month, and across most of Latin America and the Caribbean by spring 1997, bringing the number of countries it serves to 158. — *Andrew Culf*

Getty helps painting appeal

THE tycoon John Paul Getty II has donated \$50,000 to an appeal set up to stop a painting going to the Getty Museum in California, which is named after his father. The money will help boost a £2.04 million appeal set up by the National Galleries of Scotland to buy *Erminia*. Finding the *Wounded Tancred*, a masterpiece by the Italian artist Il Guercino. It is the second time that Mr Getty has intervened to prevent a work of art going to the Getty Museum. In 1994 he contributed £1 million to keep Canova's statue *The Three Graces* in Britain.

But Mr Getty almost withdrew that donation after *Erminia* Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, suggested that his generosity was motivated by a grudge against his father — a suggestion for which Mr Clifford subsequently apologised publicly. Mr Getty's latest donation was announced today as the painting — which is currently owned by the Howard family of Castle Howard in Yorkshire — went on show at the National Gallery in Edinburgh.

UK 'fire brigade' force ready

BRITAIN'S rapid deployment force, the military "fire brigade" which will be first into action in any future crisis like Bosnia or the Gulf war, was yesterday declared fully operational. With a headquarters in a bunker at Northwood, near London, the force is built round the marine commando brigade and the army's airborne brigade, with its paratroopers. Other units with heavier equipment such as tanks can be attached as required. The new force will take responsibility for providing a "spearhead" infantry battalion at 24 hours' notice — for example to reinforce the troops in Northern Ireland — and a battalion group for Nato's multinational mobile reaction force. — *David Fairhall*

Legal action forces health authorities to withdraw blanket bans on sex-change surgery

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

HEALTH authorities are withdrawing blanket bans on funding sex-change surgery in the face of threats by transsexuals to take them to court.

In the latest case, Gloucestershire health authority has agreed to pay around £7,000

for a former labourer in her mid-30s, who has lived as a woman for four years, to have the operation in Brighton. The transsexual, named only as W in court papers, suffered psychological trauma through believing she was in the wrong body, because an alcoholic and was unable to work.

In four other cases, health authorities have agreed to

reconsider bans on gender surgery after solicitors acting for the transsexuals threatened judicial review or won leave to take the case to court. W's solicitor, Madeleine Rees, said: "They obviously don't want these cases to go to court because they're not sure they'll win."

In W's case, the High Court granted leave in June and ordered the case to be expedited

after her counsel, Stephanie Harrison, told the court W's sexual identity dilemma had almost driven her to suicide and she was having thoughts of self-mutilation.

Her lawyers argued that blanket bans offended against a cardinal rule of judicial review, that public bodies must not fetter their discretion. Bans were "irrational and unreasonable", and

breached the Sex Discrimination Act and European law.

As part of NHS rationing, many authorities announced they would no longer pay for sex-change operations, although they continue to treat transsexuals with hormones and counselling. Gloucestershire told W it was a policy not to pay for such surgery because of financial constraints and because it did not

have a sufficiently high priority. Ms Rees said: "Informed medical opinion says transsexualism is a medical condition. The only treatment is surgery."

One authority has agreed to pay for surgery for a male-to-female transsexual, but is refusing to pay for the more complex and expensive female-to-male operation.

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Colin Firth as Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*

ITV steals BBC clothes in search for classic success

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

ITV has stolen the BBC's clothes in the race to produce the next classic television costume drama hit.

Plans by the corporation to adapt Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* have been put on hold, because its commercial rival had already decided to produce a 120 minute film version of the novel.

ITV has been so impressed by the success of the BBC's period dramas — particularly the audiences of 10 million for *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* — that it has embarked on a series of classical adaptations. The BBC had lined up the *Pride and Prejudice* production team of Andrew Davies and Sue Birtwistle to produce *Jane Eyre*, before discovering ITV had got in first.

London Weekend Television is expected to begin filming its version of *Jane Eyre* in September, with the screenplay by Kay Mellor, the writer of ITV's gritty prostitute drama *Band of Gold*. ITV has already snatched the Davies/Birtwistle team to produce *Jane Austen's Emma* for its autumn schedule and is to screen a bodice-ripping adaptation of *Moll Flanders* before Christmas.

A BBC spokesman said: "Jane Eyre is on our development list, but we have decided not to do it straight away. It would not serve the interests of the audience to have two versions at the same time."

But the BBC still intends to develop a six-part adaptation in two or three years' time.

The BBC denied the delay was a setback for its drama department. "We have a £10 million adaptation of *Rhodes* and *Anne Brontë's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* lined up for autumn," said a spokesman.

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Unpaid builders sue Kremlin

As Russia's debt crisis deepens, construction workers are bringing the protests home. James Meek in Moscow reports

DISGRUNTLED builders are pushing the Russian internal debt crisis to the very centre of political power by suing the Kremlin for \$25 million for a lavish programme of presidential reconstruction work inside the fortress.

With Boris Yeltsin's inauguration ceremony only a week away, the deputy mayor of Moscow, Vladimir Resin, said that Mospromstroi — a commercialised construction branch of the city authority — was taking the presidential administration to court because it owed 202 billion roubles for the work.

While the government's empty treasury leaves wages and bills unpaid, despite Mr Yeltsin's pre-election promises, relatively prosperous Moscow had seemed far from the strikes and energy blackouts elsewhere.

But Mr Resin told Sevodnya newspaper that Moscow builders were owed a total of 1,000 billion roubles (£120 million) by different federal agencies.

Among the unpaid bills was one for the reconstruction of the hospital in the southern Russian town of Budyonovsk which was wrecked in fighting between Chechen hostage-takers and Russian special forces last year.

The new hospital enabled Mr Yeltsin, seen as responsible for the Chechen conflict, to look to local residents in the eye when he visited the town on an election campaign trip. A spokesman for Mr Resin, Gennady Makarov, told the Guardian: "It's a fact they aren't paying up. The problem is chronic. They didn't pay for Poklonnaya Gora [a war memorial complex] for a long time, then in the end they paid but there was another one they hadn't paid for. They move the debt from one project to another."

Parts of the Kremlin are open to the public. But recent reconstruction work has focused on the closed areas reserved for state functions and the presidential apparatus. Plans were announced last year for restoring furniture and fittings dating from the tsars and making the president's quarters more spacious and comfortable than those of French or United States presidents.

In the far east, hunger strikes and other protests continued this week against the non-payment of thousands of miners and energy workers and fuel bills, which recently led to power cuts throughout the region.

As miners claimed that they had still not received money promised by the government, Interfax news agency reported that nine children from the mining village of Tavrichanok had been taken to hospital with food poisoning after they caught and ate a stray dog. Their parents were said to have been unpaid since February.

Miners in the Arctic city of Verkhnyaya Tura say they are on the point of striking over pay and conditions, and a trade union official said the miners' unrest in the far east had spread to the south, where 17 of the 24 pits in the Rostov region were on strike and the remainder were making no deliveries.

"I can tell you a figure which might make you realise how bad the situation is," Ruben Badalov, deputy head of the Independent Trade Union of Coal Industry Workers, said yesterday. "The total amount owed in back wages is 2 trillion roubles (£251 million). There is a very high probability of an all-Russian strike."

In Samara on the Volga, meanwhile, 5,000 workers from the Tupolev passenger jet plant threatened to block railway lines unless they received back-pay from January.

The daily labour newspaper Trud gave a poignant example of the non-payments crisis. It reported that a female medical worker had passed

Nine children from a mining village got food poisoning after they caught and ate a stray dog

out on a far-eastern railway track two days ago. When she came to, she said she had not been paid in four months and her husband, a miner at Anzurskaya pit, had not been paid in five months. Her two sons were starving.

"The train drivers collected money for her, as much as they could, and gave it to the woman," Trud said.

The economics minister, Yevgeny Yasin, said on Wednesday that government tax collection had to be improved within four months to enable budgeted payouts to be made if industrial unrest were not to spread.

Mr Yasin said post-election Russia resembled a "landslide after battle: many victims are left lying on the field".

He added: "The state cannot exist if it does not gather taxes. The state cannot carry out any policy if it does not have money. With market reform, with the freeing of industry, industry has made it clear it is not interested in the responsibilities which go with that freedom."

Even if every Russian enterprise conscientiously paid its taxes, the country would still face an enormous internal debt problem, since many unpaid bills are owed to supposedly commercial enterprises, and are not owed by the state.



'Shuttle traders', who account for 15 per cent of Russian imports, operate beneath a statue of Lenin near Moscow's Luzhniki stadium. Yesterday, customs duties were raised to recoup lost tax revenues. PHOTOGRAPH BY SERGEI VETERNIK

Dawn raiders seize Chechens

Raiders in Dolinskoye, Russia

CCHECHEN villagers gave horrific accounts of a dawn helicopter raid yesterday by masked men who shot dead two, kidnapped 16 and left two more to die from shock. They join the Chechen government in blaming Russian troops.

man, was asleep when masked men broke the door down, his mother said.

"His wife grabbed him, but they said they would shoot the children if [the family] didn't let him go," she said, tracing bullet holes in the wall of her flat.

Zura Nagayev, whose wall was also peppered with bullet holes, said: "I cried at them not to shoot, but they did any-

way. I hid my boy behind the carpet."

in the raid on Dolinskoye, 12 miles west of Grozny.

Residents said two helicopters, 12 police jeeps and 12 armoured personnel carriers were involved.

Atlanta media take law into their own hands

Jan Katz in New York

YESTERDAY'S newspaper pictures of Richard Jewell, the security guard suspected of the Olympic bombing, showed him peering from behind what appeared to be prison bars.

In fact the bars were the balusters of a staircase outside his mother's Atlanta flat. But the image was fitting enough for the portly 33-year-old has already been all but convicted by the media of planting the bomb that killed one woman and injured more than 100 people last Saturday.

A photograph of Mr Jewell posing in military fatigues with an M16 rifle was also reproduced in several newspapers. Criminologists held forth on television about a "hero syndrome", in which law enforcement officers commit crimes to draw attention to themselves.

As agents removed evidence from his home on Wednesday, there were television reports that masonry nails "consistent" with those in the Olympic bomb had been found.

One reporter, asked by his anchor about the significance of a roll of masking tape removed from the scene, blithely replied that it might have been used to bind together the pipes used in the explosive device.

Yesterday the FBI's director, Louis Freeh, dampened the frenzied speculation about Mr Jewell when he told a Senate committee that his agents were looking at "a number of suspects".

But he sounded as though he was trying to shut the stable door long after the horse had bolted. Whoever is proved to have planted the Atlanta bomb, Mr Jewell will be remembered as the hero who became the prime suspect.

By yesterday, as the small ranks of reporters outside his flat began to thin out, Mr Jewell's overnight propulsion into notoriety was beginning to raise uncomfortable questions about media coverage of criminal investigations in the United States.

The FBI's suspicions about local TV stations know about it, and we're going to be sitting here with egg on our faces."

bomb and helping to evacuate the area. He had given several interviews, recounting his heroics.

Were television stations and newspapers right to name him as a suspect long before the FBI searched his home? Why did unnamed "investigation sources" help to turn the spotlight of the world's media on him?

"Whoever the bum was that leaked that Richard Jewell was the focus of the investigation deserves to be prosecuted," said his lawyer, Watson Bryant. "I don't know how anyone can withstand the scrutiny that he has had."

Mr Bryant's outrage reflected a naively about the intensely close relationship in the US between law enforcement officials and the media.

Although the police usually wait until they are about to make an arrest before inviting the cameras in, Ameri-

'I don't know how anyone can withstand the scrutiny he's had'

cans are used to seeing men and women led handcuffed from their homes in the glare of television lights before they have been charged.

In April FBI agents had to bring forward their raid on the Montana cabin of the man they suspected of being the Unabomber because a television network was about to name Theodore Kaczynski as the prime suspect.

Though they are apt to put freedom of speech before the rights of suspects, news executives sounded uncomfortable yesterday as they justified the coverage of Mr Jewell.

"The information was out there," said Rochelle Bosman, the assistant metropolitan editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which produced a special afternoon edition on Tuesday naming Mr Jewell as the prime suspect.

"If the Atlanta police department knows about it, local TV stations know about it, and we're going to be sitting here with egg on our faces."

Elysée rivals break bread but not ice

Paul Taylor in Paris

CAMERAS were not allowed to record the reconciliation lunch at the Elysée which Jacques Chirac invited his defeated fellow Gaullist presidential rival, Edouard Balladur yesterday.

While the two may have broken bread, they are unlikely to have broken the ice.

"They're not going to kiss on the mouth," one presidential aide joked, when asked why photographers were excluded from their first private meeting since the election.

President Chirac's supporters accused Mr Balladur, the former finance minister and adviser he made prime minister in 1993, of betraying a "30-year friend" by running against him. But Mr Chirac is anxious to reunite his fractious centre-right coalition in good time for the 1998 general election.

After a year in the wilderness since Mr Chirac's victory in May 1995, Mr Balladur has called for bolder cuts in taxes, public spending and interest rates.

The president's office said the atmosphere at the 90-minute lunch was "very cordial" and the two conservative politicians discussed a range of domestic and foreign issues.

News in brief

Bomb suspect released
Huda Fudeh, an Israeli-Arab woman from Acre held for nine days on suspicion of involvement in two bombings of Jewish targets in London in 1994, was released yesterday, Israeli TV stations said.

The police said they had found no evidence against her. An angry Ms Fudeh said the investigation could have been completed in a day. — Reuter.

Germ success
Japanese scientists examining a germ which has killed seven and made more than 9,000 people ill have identified three strains of the O-157 bacteria but have still to pinpoint the source, health ministry officials said yesterday. — Reuter.

Beyond the grave
The Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, said yesterday that the Greek Cypriot government had agreed to hand over the remains of his mother, whose grave in the south of the island is out of bounds to him. — Reuter.

Sticking point
An impotence clinic's advert featuring a picture of New Zealand's 1928 Olympic athlete Stan Lay holding a "limp" javelin has outraged him and his family. The country's oldest living male Olympian said the doctor's advert was used without his permission. — AP.

Greeks get angry as tourists chip away stone forest

Helen Smith on Lesbos

THE fossilised forest of Lesbos has survived relatively unscathed for the last 200 million years, but its future now looks increasingly fragile as it suffers the ravages of the marauding modern tourist.

In recent years the great stone trunks on the western side of this Aegean island have been disappearing at a rate that has sent geologists into paroxysms of fury.

portant natural sites in Europe and represents a fossil forest which exists nowhere in the world," says Professor Evangelos Ventzelos, who teaches palaeontology at the University of Athens. "But it is literally being destroyed before our eyes. People just keep stealing it. My own office is full of stolen pieces which have sent me."

In 1985 the Greek government passed emergency legislation declaring the area a protected natural site and holding out the possibility of a six month jail term for anyone walking away with

parts of the pre-historic stony forest.

But the law appears to have done little to keep the fossil thieves away. With their ornate markings and extraordinary array of colours, the petrified trees and fossil plants have proved hard for visitors to resist.

Although the forest, which was buried under volcanic ash before rainwater unearthed it, has been guarded around the clock and protected by iron fences since 1984, scientists say it is still vanishing at a frightening pace.

"There have been cases where people have been caught driving away with truckloads of the trees," says Nikos Zouras, a local geologist who has spent many years studying the wood. "They either want them as souvenirs or they sell them to museums or jewellers. If we hadn't taken protective measures, it's clear the park would not have survived at all."

Last week Dr Zouras began a lecture tour of villages and hilltop towns on the island in an effort to raise local awareness of the forest's value as an insight

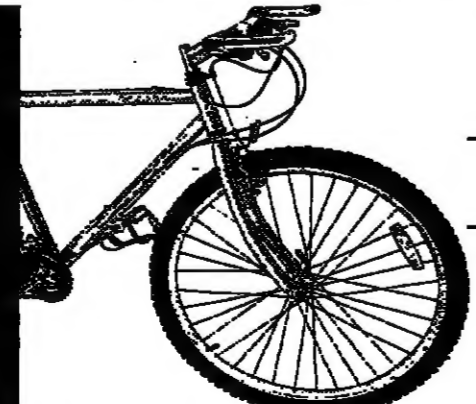


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Apollo Tecton Halfords 8 Function Computer	£189.99
Total cash price	£16.99
20% deposit	£206.98
Balance	£41.39
Total amount payable	£165.59
12 monthly payments	£229.79
RALEIGH MAX OGRE 15 WITH HELMET	
Raleigh Max Ogre 15 Bell Image Cycle Helmet	£164.99
Total cash price	£39.99
20% deposit	£204.98
Balance	£40.99
Total amount payable	£163.99
12 monthly payments	£227.59

مكتبة القرآن

Edinburgh pages 2-5
Quentin Crisp:
 'I crept in, my cap in hand...'

Books page 8
Hollywood
 knives: Mark
 Lawson on Ben
 Elton's novel.

Music page 6
Orchestral
 manoeuvres:
 why women are
 filling our pits



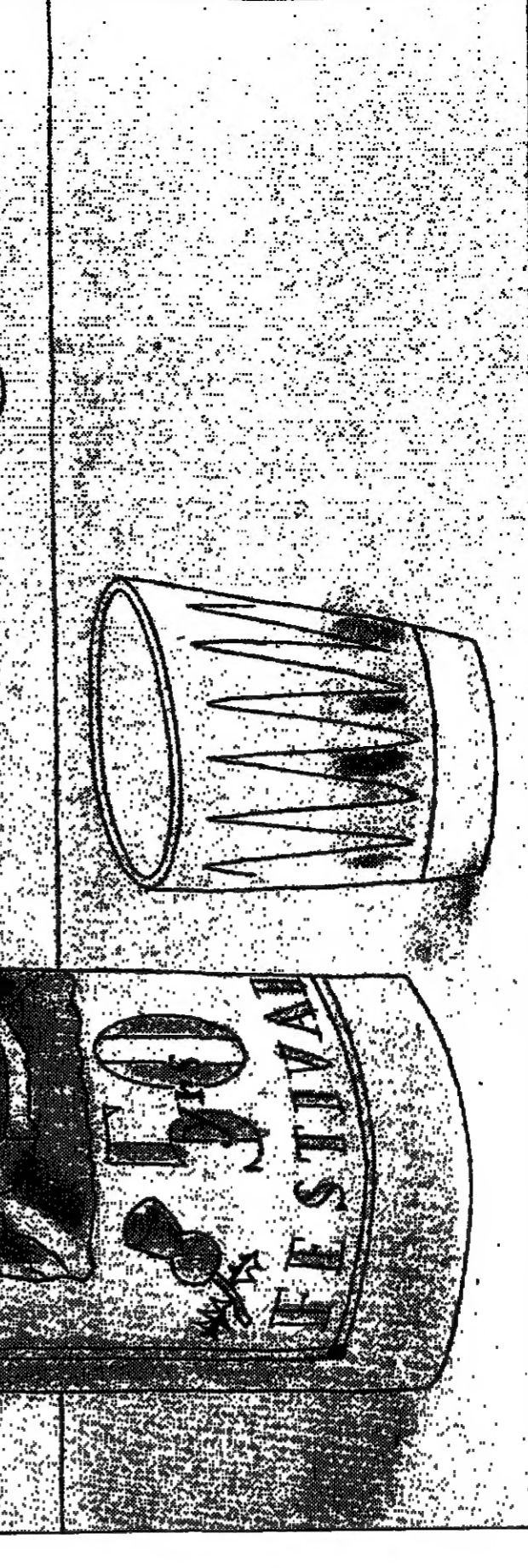
The Guardian International

REVIEW

Friday August 3 1986

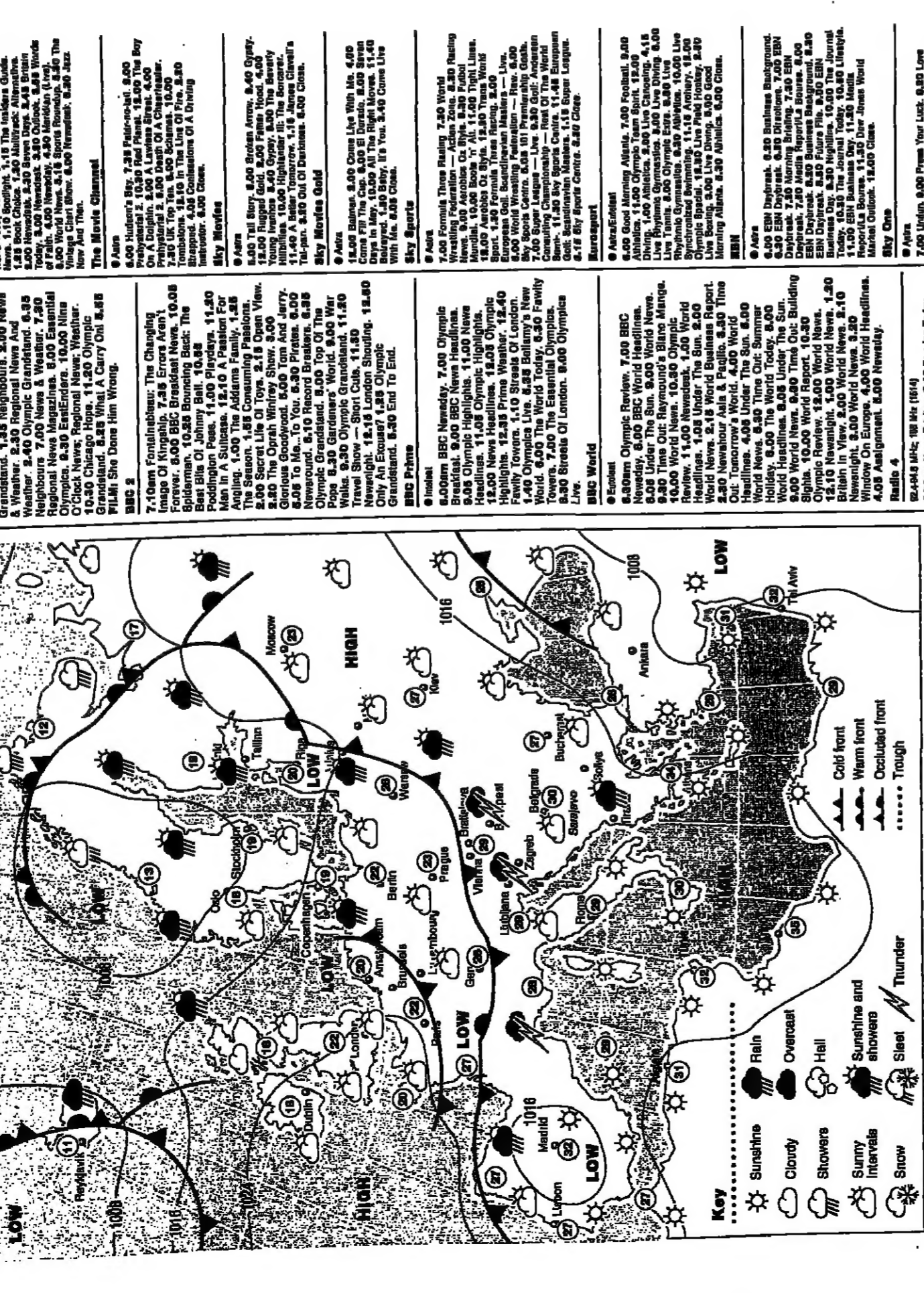
Berek Jacobs, Royan Atkinson, Jonathan Miller, David Frost, Alan Bennett, Martha Graham, Margot Fonteyne, Steve Coogan, Emma Thompson, Lee Evans, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Tom Stoppard, Jenny Eclair, Deborah Warner, James MacMillan, Brian de Palma, Alec McCowen, Mark Anthony Turnage, Martin Scorsese. What do they have in common? They were discovered at the festival.

Happy birthday Edinburgh!



12 Weather/Television

The weather in Europe



European weather outlook

Most areas will be either cool and changeable with a risk of sunny spells and showers, or mainly cloudy with a few showers. Some of the sunnier could be heavy with hail and thunder. Max temp 16-17C.

Switzerland, Austria and south-eastern Germany will be quite warm and humid with a high chance of heavy showers. Further north across the Low Countries and the rest of Germany it will be cooler and less humid with some sun. Max temp ranging from 17C on the Dutch coast to 20C in southern Switzerland.

Southern France will have plenty of cloud across but it will be very warm. Northern France should be mostly dry and bright with patchy cloud and sunny periods. High 21-22C.

Spain and Portugal will be hot and sunny with cooling sea-breezes around the coast, but this is far north of Spain where showers. Max temp 25-26C, but lower in the far north.

Italy of 1986 continues to have most of its rain and sun, but late in the day some thunderstorms may develop over the Alps and Dolomites. High 25-26C.

Major cities weather for holiday and prolonged stays with many clear blue skies and prolonged spells of hot sunshine. Highs 28-32C.

Around the world

Veronica's longitude reports

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Other
Algeria	24	SE	2	
Amsterdam	14	W	100	
Antwerp	14	W	100	
Athens	24	SE	2	
Berlin	14	W	100	
Birmingham	14	W	100	
Bombay	28	SE	2	
Boston	14	W	100	
Buenos Aires	24	SE	2	
Calcutta	28	SE	2	
Cardiff	14	W	100	
Chennai	28	SE	2	
Copenhagen	14	W	100	
Dublin	14	W	100	
Edinburgh	14	W	100	
Hamburg	14	W	100	
Helsinki	14	W	100	
London	14	W	100	
Lyons	14	W	100	
Madrid	24	SE	2	
Manila	28	SE	2	
Moscow	14	W	100	
Mumbai	28	SE	2	
Nairobi	24	SE	2	
New Delhi	28	SE	2	
New York	14	W	100	
Osaka	24	SE	2	
Paris	14	W	100	
Rangoon	28	SE	2	
Rome	24	SE	2	
Singapore	28	SE	2	
Tokyo	24	SE	2	
Yokohama	24	SE	2	

Forecast for the cities

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Other
Algeria	24	SE	2	
Amsterdam	14	W	100	
Antwerp	14	W	100	
Athens	24	SE	2	
Berlin	14	W	100	
Birmingham	14	W	100	
Bombay	28	SE	2	
Boston	14	W	100	
Buenos Aires	24	SE	2	
Calcutta	28	SE	2	
Cardiff	14	W	100	
Chennai	28	SE	2	
Copenhagen	14	W	100	
Dublin	14	W	100	
Edinburgh	14	W	100	
Hamburg	14	W	100	
Helsinki	14	W	100	
London	14	W	100	
Lyons	14	W	100	
Madrid	24	SE	2	
Manila	28	SE	2	
Moscow	14	W	100	
Mumbai	28	SE	2	
Nairobi	24	SE	2	
New Delhi	28	SE	2	
New York	14	W	100	
Osaka	24	SE	2	
Paris	14	W	100	
Rangoon	28	SE	2	
Rome	24	SE	2	
Singapore	28	SE	2	
Tokyo	24	SE	2	
Yokohama	24	SE	2	

Reference and file to the Personnel department, university or employment agency. Promoting equal opportunities. P14 6A.



2 | Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Festival is in Scotland. But how much Scotland is there in the Edinburgh Festival? Michael Billington and a team of Guardian critics look back at 50 years of the good, the bad and the brilliant

A fringe affair with Scotland

OOD was rationed, hotels still had their windows shaded out. It took numerous letters and telegrams to persuade the Ministry of Puff to lift the ban on the theatrical spotlight. In 1947, the Edinburgh Festival opened its doors to a world still struggling to recover from the devastation of the Second World War. In a world still recovering from the devastation of the Second World War, I mean, there had been a second, but from the ashes of the first, a new world had been born. How do things stand now?



Edinburgh's Fringe Festival is a mix of the old and the new. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a mix of the old and the new. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a mix of the old and the new.

1988, McMaster hopes to open a brand-new Festival Centre in the Royal Mile that will embrace lectures, discussions, bookshops and a clubroom, offering the city a year-round facility. McMaster, whose contract has been extended to 2001, says the Festival will change depending on who is running it but adds: "I like to think that the programme for the 100th Festival will not be that different from the beginning." The more I ponder that statement, the more I realize that it is not the fact that by 2047 (or long before) Scotland may no longer be part of the Union. What effect would that have on the Festival?

That Edinburgh feeling: critics' best and worst

Music

Edward Greenfield
MY GREAT memory of the Edinburgh Festival dates back to its very first year, 1947 and the day when, as a raw National Serviceman, I went with other recruits in a truck to a legendary concert at the Debra Hall. Not only was Bruno Walter conducting Mahler's First but Peter Pears, who was the first resident of Waverley, had been paired since Hitler's invasion of Austria, the Vienna Philharmonic. My most shattering Festival occasion was in the mid-fifties when I joined the Guardian's then northern music critic, Colin Mason, for an usher's Hall concert by Bartok and the Halle Orchestra. I was still reeling from the experience that day of

travelling from King's Cross to Edinburgh Waverley on the footplate of the record breaking steam locomotive, Mallard. Not only was I asked to give a very so-called 'review' of the Turkish Overture by the orchestra being bashed over the ears with the trays, and even Clara Haskil in a Mozart Piano concerto failed to soothe.

Comedy

Rob Yates
By all accounts - particularly his own - Gerry Sadowitz is not a very nice man. What's more, the Glaswegian comic makes it his business to abuse those who offer encouragement. However, at the risk of him turning up on the Guardian's doorstep, all I can say is that Gerry Sadowitz was a great hauler for his late. Eighteen Edinburgh parlor-

Dance

Mary Clark
In 1954 there was the revolution of Margot Fonteyne's first Priblud in the Soder's Welsh Ballet revival of Michael Fokler's great ballet, originally staged by Diaghilev in Paris in 1910. In

the same year at the College of Art, we saw Richard Buckle's great exhibition celebrating the achievements of Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Many years later, in 1982, there was the Mark Morris Dance Group in Dido And Aeneas, in which, with "outrageous honesty" (Bartolshov's phrase), Morris danced both Dido and the Sorcerer.

Theatre

Lyn Gardner
1986, First Edinburgh. Eighty-two shows in 14 days. On the Perth-Award panel, Don't laugh all week until I see Theatre de Complicité's More Bigger. Sandra's Now. Launched so much. I sobbed. Managers to persuade follow judges that the show is eligible for award. It wins. You never to miss another festival.

Derek Malcolm
Watching Who's That First Low-budget feature from Martin Scorsese, and recognizing it in something exceptional - later contrasted by the extraordinary Mean Streets.

Film

1980. Seventy-one shows in 30 days. See our women show about child abuse. Have food poisoning. Throw up in one-woman show about child abuse. Lose play ticket. Throw up in one-woman show about child abuse. Phone office. Employer going bust, payment doubtful. Throw up in one-woman show about child abuse. Discover food poisoning is pregnancy. Great excuse to miss next year's festival.

The Guardian Friday August 2 1996

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Quick Crossword No. 8194

Across

1 Management - course (9)
8 Chief - part of a bridge (4)
9 Paint the town red (9)
10 New - average (4)
13 Staked - and burnt (5)
14 Steward (5)
17 Security (9)
19 On hold of (9)
20 Frequent (like a gnat) (5)
21 Phantom (like a ghost) (5)
24 Fruit with loose seeds (9)
25 Count - and recount (4)
26 Workshop (9)

Down

18 Armour-plated someone (9)
19 Uncertainty (9)
21 Uncertainty (9)
22 Uncertainty (9)
23 Uncertainty (9)
24 Uncertainty (9)
25 Uncertainty (9)
26 Uncertainty (9)

1 Office seeker (9)
22 Uncertainty (9)

Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Karlstone Olympics
Mr. Mayor has promised \$10,000,000 lottery money to develop a Centre of Sporting Excellence, a National Stadium, and a National Aquatics Centre.

Research by speed-beer polygraphists to perfect an air repellent push to cover British athletes in 's

The body surface is 8% smoother than skin, which means an 8% speed increase

What are we using at the moment?
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مكتبة القرآن الكريم

He argues that there is a whole generation of Scottish dramatists, including James Bridie, Robert McLellan, Alexander Reid and Robert Kemp whose work deserves revival. Brindle adds: "I am largely ignorant of their plays (though I saw *The Flowers of Edinburgh* in 1970) but I think it is a pity that the Edinburgh Festival, which has been so successful in the past, has not taken on the projected Scottish National Theatre. Now we would have it all in an Edinburgh Theatre. Even now, a former drama critic of the Observer, and a tough Scot, confessed himself baffled by the language when he sat through McLellan's *The Laird o' Forvie* on the Fringe of the first Festival. Paul Scott has, I suspect, a stronger case when he suggests a look at some of the 200 operas based on his namesake's Waverley Novels.

But the nationalist issue is not going to go away and is likely to haunt the Edinburgh Festival in the future even more than in the past. Scotland boasts two first-rate composers in James MacMillan and Thomas Murray, some acclaimed novelists in James Kelman, Irvine Welsh and Alan Garner, lively poets such as Edwin Morgan, Tom Leonard and Liz Lochhead. Films such as *Braveheart* and *Rob Roy* have also quickened interest in its history. But, for all the living Scottish playwright who has achieved international recognition, Cymon's Scotland should be represented in the Edinburgh Festival on a full-scale independence. I suspect the Festival will face a genuine, and possibly insoluble, problem: how to achieve representation of national identity without diluting the international appeal.

If Scottish nationalism is bound to affect the nature of the Festival too, for better or worse, as John Drummond and Frank Dunlop, it is to be hoped, aspects of it into the main Festival itself, that is, Dunlop as a hunch in 1981 blithely described the Fringe as "a unique and self-satisfying" and "reminiscent of a modern Tower of Babel of the arts". Moreover, however, takes a much cooler line. "My aim," he says, "was to distinguish clearly between the Festival and the Fringe. There are obvious differences between us. We programme: they don't. We have a structure: the Fringe has its own anarchic shape. Since I see little sign of it, except possibly in the week before the Festival starts, it's not for me to comment on it. But I would hate to see that anarchic definition of the Fringe go since it is a vital part of its attraction.

But didn't Dunlop have a point? Isn't there something self-satisfied about the way the Fringe each year gleefully announces it is bigger than ever? Is it also led anything to do with artistic quality? I see also read few alliterative statements than that by Hilary Strain, the Fringe Director, writing in this year's brochure, that "Not much has really changed over the years."



Further than Scotland. All this coloured my attitude to the Scots when I visited their country again recently. I caught in my hand (metaphorically — I have found that, if I don't wear a large black hat on my head, I am unrecognisable to the public) and, as I stepped from the plane, said: "I did not meet that unpleasantness at Glencoe. I can't think what came over me." I was greeted warmly during the Edinburgh Festival of 1976. That I was invited to go there does not show any particular attitude towards me or what I have come to represent, because I was a tiny part of a troupe of strolling players who came from Bristol University department led by a man who was, I think, named Andy Jordan.

He had seen me on television in the Welsh Civil Servant show. I found I did a convincing job, though it was hardly a success. It had no direction, no script, and no rehearsal. It was all an idea in my head. The idea was to present a public house in Llangollen — actually, it was only a room behind a public house in Llangollen. I was in a play called *Madame de Sade*, by Mr. M. I said to me, in a dreary voice, "I don't want to dress the lunchtime hour. I thought you could go on then." Somewhat amused, I asked, "With what object, my friend?" "You could talk to people. When you say 'you could talk to what?' the reply was 'you could talk to the same thing each day if you only had the time to do it.'"

I think I was at that time, the only person who had the gall to take an audience's attention, with anything or dancing or acting. Now, of course, they're all at it. We're down to about three people in the audience until *The Naked City* segment was shown on English television late in April 1976. It was a sign of the liberality of the organisers of the Edinburgh Festival that they allowed a notorious label to be printed a quotation from Mr. Burns: "Freedom and whisky gang the gither."

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At Birkbeck College, University of London, two activities will be addressed. First, compilation of data for prototype field areas and staff from Leicester and Birkbeck. Second, there will be an investigation of the suitability of immersive technologies in Virtual Fieldwork.

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Application forms and further particulars are available from the Personnel & Planning Office, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH. Further information (0153) 233 1341. Applications should be returned no later than 16 August 1986. Further information can also be obtained from the Internet: <http://www.gang.le.ac.uk/VR>.

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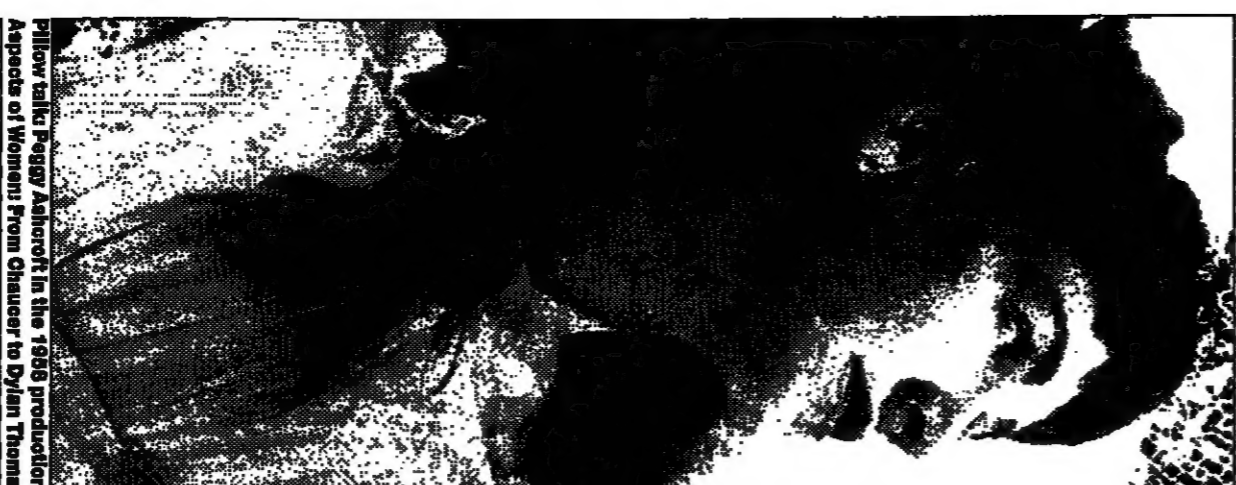
Promoting equal opportunities

Students from the technology courses at the second...

A fringe affair with Scotland

Page 3 50 years of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. In fact, everything has changed. In 1947, six theatre companies created an unofficial Fringe, this year there will be 600 groups, covering all the arts, putting on a total of 1,200 shows. In 1947, the Fringe was also driven by a need to explore the Scottish drama absent from the main Festival: now it is an international bonanza. But the biggest change has come in its character. Once, it offered a genuine attempt to explore the wider reaches of the theatrical repertoire, now much of it seems an odd mix of trade fair and the perfume-equivalent of vanity publishing.

Good things, of course, still happen within its borders: this year, as ever, I shall be haunting the Theatre Royal, looking at student productions for the Currier's own competition and dipping into the Assembly Rooms, the Demos Foundation, Theatre Workshop and other venues. What worries me is general, however: the way the Fringe's diverse practitioners have had to be brought to a particular attention in the last few years of its history.



Author John MacGregor in the 1960s production *Yellow Tails*. Photo: Andrew Hurrell

It wasn't even that I first went to Edinburgh in 1960, as both paying customer and student critic, and as an explorer. I saw a couple of Oxford Theatre Company productions, including *Madness*, directed by Kenneth Branagh and adapted by Francis Hopps, and a little-known French play by Georges Senechal called *Verso*, the Tower Theatre in a stunning version of *The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas*. I also saw *Summer and Smoke*. No one was afraid of length, intervals or taking the audience to another show round the corner. Today there is both much more uniformity — at least in the main Fringe — and a lot more diversity. It's a different kind of festival, and it's a different kind of audience.

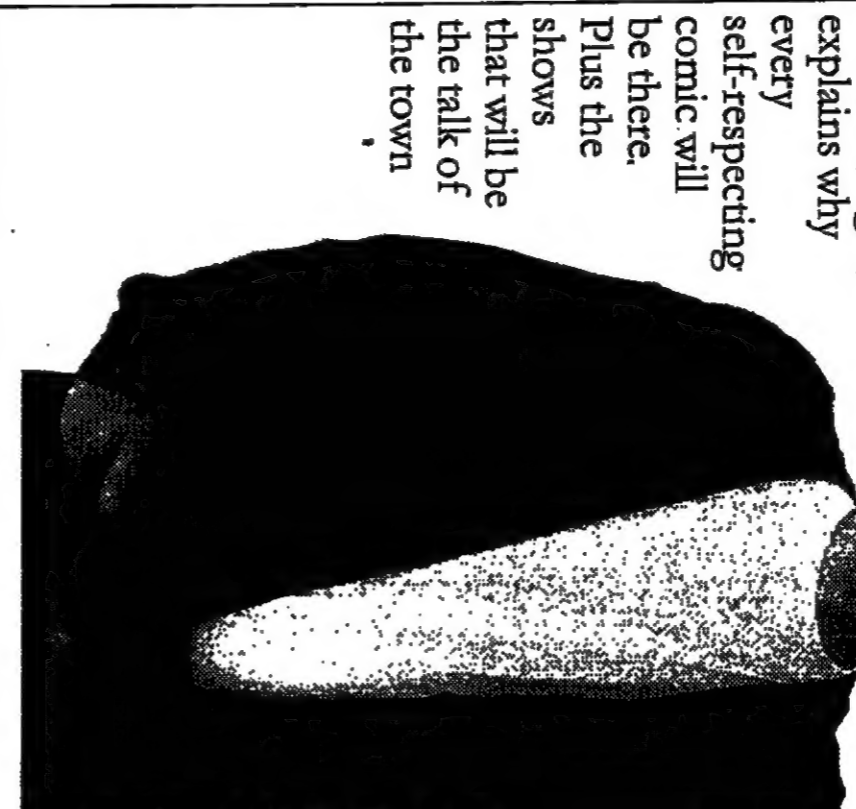
Their show is really necessary. A few years ago, an actress friend came to ask me whether she should take her one-woman show, largely ignored in London, to the Fringe. I warned her about the high rents (it's rumored that, if you want to do street theatre, you have to book your own ramp-post), the fierce competition for audiences, the unlikelihood of getting much, if any, critical coverage. She listened politely and said she'd taken my points on board. Of course, she went, played to dismal houses and lost most of her hard-earned savings. But the Fringe is filled with artists who believe that, like Byron, they will wake up one morning and find themselves famous.

A smaller Fringe is probably a pipe-dream. But how should the Edinburgh Festival itself change in the future? I don't see it as well served as it once was, but I do see it as a place where the best of British and European theatre can be seen. The Fringe is a place where the best of British and European theatre can be seen. The Fringe is a place where the best of British and European theatre can be seen.

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The 50th festival promises to be a Golden One

Comedian Dave Gorman, right, explains why every self-respecting comic will be there. Plus the shows that will be the talk of the town



The comedian Dave Gorman

Jonathan Romney
F THERE'S one thing guaranteed to set the pulses racing in a film festival programme, it's a complex scheme of colour coding. To judge by the timetable in vibrant oranges, red, green and purple, this year's film festival will be varied, to say the least. If you find there's a selection of classics from 1947, to say this is one of the year's top attractions is no slur on the new stuff, but with the likes of *Ona*, *Burnt*, *Welles* and *Cocteau* — including in a sort of time travel, pretty impressive. The opening and closing attractions are the sublimely and the ridiculous, though it's anyone's guess which is which — *Sean Connery* or *Sean Connery*.
There's another starry list of names to watch for, including *John Huston*, *William Wyler*, *Orson Welles*, *Welles* and *Cocteau*. The film *Welles* is a comedy, with a complex scheme of colour coding. To judge by the timetable in vibrant oranges, red, green and purple, this year's film festival will be varied, to say the least. If you find there's a selection of classics from 1947, to say this is one of the year's top attractions is no slur on the new stuff, but with the likes of *Ona*, *Burnt*, *Welles* and *Cocteau* — including in a sort of time travel, pretty impressive. The opening and closing attractions are the sublimely and the ridiculous, though it's anyone's guess which is which — *Sean Connery* or *Sean Connery*.

Liberation from the lairds

Who Owns Scotland? by Andy Wightman
237pp, Canongate, £25
Who Owns Scotland Now? by Angus Craib
209pp, Mainstream, £14.99
Friend Clouston

SCOTS generally feel sore about the land. This is, broadly, an atavistic thing. Most people are aware how with-holding cities were largely populated by hollow-cheeked refugees from the agricultural reforms of the 18th and 19th centuries. If it wasn't the sheep or the deer that chased people off their ancestral turf, it was the lottery of military might. Sir Walter Scott expresses this angst in *Macgregor's Gathering*:
Glen Ordy's proud mountains,
Concubine and her lovers,
Chastise our Glen Ordy no longer are ours.
We're landless, landless, landless, landless,
Or-gian-chi!
Landless, landless, landless...

But the Macgregors' time may be coming again. The endless talking about devolution from Westminster has led naturally to speculation on how best to dismantle another of the barriers to integrated management of the or her home land: the ownership that so very often makes them a financial disaster zone. The MacGregor's time may be coming again. The endless talking about devolution from Westminster has led naturally to speculation on how best to dismantle another of the barriers to integrated management of the or her home land: the ownership that so very often makes them a financial disaster zone.

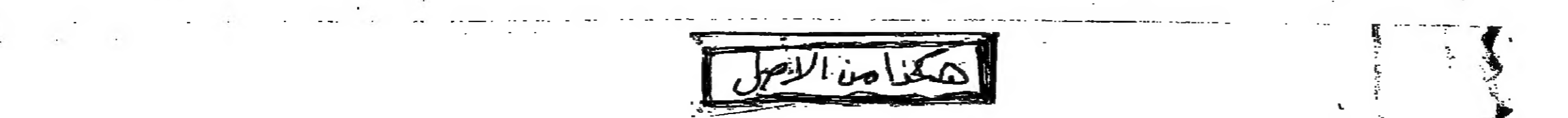
In a no-blame culture

Pogoera by Ben Elton
298pp, Simon & Schuster, £12.99
Mark Lawson

There is an inevitable suspicion of novels as being established as a celebration of other kinds. They are able to bypass the traditional apparatus of fiction and appeal to a wider audience. One of the most impressive aspects of Ben Elton's *Pogoera* is that it is a novel that can be read by a wide audience. The novel is a comedy, with a complex scheme of colour coding. To judge by the timetable in vibrant oranges, red, green and purple, this year's film festival will be varied, to say the least. If you find there's a selection of classics from 1947, to say this is one of the year's top attractions is no slur on the new stuff, but with the likes of *Ona*, *Burnt*, *Welles* and *Cocteau* — including in a sort of time travel, pretty impressive. The opening and closing attractions are the sublimely and the ridiculous, though it's anyone's guess which is which — *Sean Connery* or *Sean Connery*.

Books 19

Bringing home a bag on the North Harris Islands, by Peter Hain
PROFESSOR HAIN'S NEW NOVELS
The Loyalist, by John MacGregor
The Loyalist, by John MacGregor
The Loyalist, by John MacGregor



Edinburgh 15

Just not the case because we know that almost all TV people have no sense of humour whatsoever. I say "almost all" because there are exceptions. I don't know who they are yet, but when they buy me a drink, I'm sure they will be only too happy to believe I meant them all along.

And there I go. I'm in my own living room, tapping away at a word processor and I'm scheming an as yet un-noticed producer. My agent would be proud of me. But then they might be the only chance I get this year. They are after all, hundreds of schemers and I might all head north full of intent but most of us won't get the opportunity. They go to the Glided Bullion bar at "Late the Cheese" or hanging around in the Pleasance courtyard of an evening. You'll see comedians in their seats gawping about how the deal is going to come their way. Then they get drunk, give up and go home. And I'll be one of them. I did it last year. I do it again this year and I don't mind, though. I just want to sample that special festival atmosphere, stretch my legs and maybe take in the odd bit of experimental dance...

Robert Lepage, the French-Canadian director and filmmaker, also revisits Edinburgh with his new solo show, *Elizabetta* (King's Theatre); a distillation of Shakespeare's Hamlet that makes you see the play afresh without imposing on it the tyranny of a directorial concept.

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atmosphere... because I want to stretch myself... because I like going to watch experimental dance... anything. Anything, except I want to further my career. Why? Because ambition is an ugly word. Well let me introduce you to its even uglier cousin, whom it keeps locked in the cellar for fear of embarrassment: network and schmoze.

Schmozing, being polite to someone who buys me a drink (on their ample expense account) in the hope that they will one day want to employ me, it might sound shallow. But it's too easy with you. I'd happily be polite to someone more modest, hope that they will one day want to buy me another. I can't see what's wrong with valuing my slight a little.

But in recent years it has become an increasingly regular complaint that comedy has somehow sold its soul; that it's been taken over by big business. Apparently, it means that comedians are writing now specifically to appeal to television producers and ignoring the people that count: the punters. But this is not to credit TV executives with some other-worldly sense of humour: not shared by you or I. Of course, we know that's

actor show, and that new gag about Michael Bolton's barber is twin airbag. Most comedians don't make money out of the things. In fact, unless you're an established TV name, you're looking to take a pretty hefty loss. Well, I for one can't afford that kind of holiday - I I could I wouldn't be in Edinburgh. I'd be on holiday. Don't get me wrong, I do enjoy the festival, but I'm going there because I think it might just help to further my career. I've said it. I feel better now it's out in the open. I don't think I'm supposed to have told you that. I'm supposed to tell you that I'm taking a show up because I love

Festival Fringe. It's the largest arts festival in the world - and the largest part of it is the comedy. Hundreds of comedians will be telling literally hundreds of jokes. And at the end of each night, we will congregate in bars. We will get each other on the back, tell each other how funny we are and all the time we will be looking over the other guy's shoulder in case "the man from Anglia TV" who's looking for a new face to present a five minutes slot about fly fishing" might enter the room.

Because to comedians, Edinburgh is about selling your wares. It's the biggest shop window there is. It's the comedy equivalent of the

NA laboratory, somewhere in California, three scientists are monitoring seismic activity across the globe. It appears that Edinburgh is at the epicentre of a small earthquake. Then they check their Stephen Hawking calendar (A Brief History of 1986 - 25.09 from all good stations) and, seeing their hero sat on a wheelchair, friendly beach they realise that it is August. Panic is averted.

The obviously reacting to the laughter caused by several life's little idiosyncrasies. In their own unduly humorous fashion.

The reason: The Edinburgh

Where else would you see Mark Morris in an opera?

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emptied, not taking any notice of her. His song presumably drowns out her cry. Only an anchor notices her dimly, gazing over his shoulder with calm inquiry at the punctured boat, the dropped flowers.

People more often want to pronounce judgment on Orpheus's second loss of Eurydice, when he turns around to look at her before they have re-secured the day. It is a victim of his own sensuality? Virgil describes him as seized by a loving frenzy that the underworld does not know how to pardon. Ovid thought he was afraid she might have fallen somehow to keep up with him - as if worried about her harking skills. For the medieval allegorists, his U-turn was mere backsliding from pursuit of higher things. In our century the Imagist poet H. D. wife of Richard Aldington, spoke out against Orpheus's "ruthlessness" and "arrogance".

Nor has Eurydice been free from blame. Gluck's opera has her fall of mis-trusting anxiety, worrying that he can't face her because she has lost her looks in Hades. "I would have been able to say to Orpheus," claimed the Russian writer Marina Tsvetayeva, "Don't look back! His turning was... the result of either the blindness of her love, or of her impudence."

The hubbub of re-examination has gone on for centuries, but there has been nothing here for participants of either side to measure. After all, the English word "re-secure" comes from the Latin for "to look back". Whichever of them forced the turn need not have been letting or putting down the other. To look back is to recognise a dependency. Mothers and other primates do it repeatedly. As it grows, the child makes ever greater forays from its mother, but those adventures have glances back for reassurance.

What is true of the individual life is true too of a culture as it past, as we grow up towards our notions of enlightenment by re-securing what we once told ourselves in myth, adjusting our self-contentment with how far we've come by re-securing how far we've still have to go. "The backward look behind the assurance" of Ovid recorded history, the backward half-look / over the shoulder, towards the primitive terror ("S Eek!").

Myths reassure our questions about what we really want. When it was younger, the Orpheus story pictured the bliss of control. It across, perhaps, from something like the excitable chatter of a bunch of kids who have just had a big idea: "wouldn't it be great if, when you whistled, all the animals came running and did whatever you told them to?" "Terrific. But you told them to?" "Terrific. But human beings are animals - would the whistle work on them?"

Now the myth appeals to older kids, to puberty with its dreamy dreams of sexual magnetism. For all his fervours, such a world would seem demeaned, its servile inhabitants less than people. This is the moment when imagination should acknowledge that Eurydice must die, die in order to show by her recalcitrance to Orpheus's desire that she is herself as real as he is. He must learn to be glad that he cannot call her tune.

Eric Griffiths is a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and author of *The Primrose* (Victor Gollancz) and *Prayer* (Oxford, 1985).

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The mythic moment

Writers from Virgil to Salman Rushdie have been gripped by the myth of Orpheus. With a new production of Gluck's Orfeo on its way to Edinburgh, Eric Griffiths explains why

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Music

Women who know the score

As a top European orchestra once again closes its doors on women, Stewart Collins applauds Britain's non-sexist approach

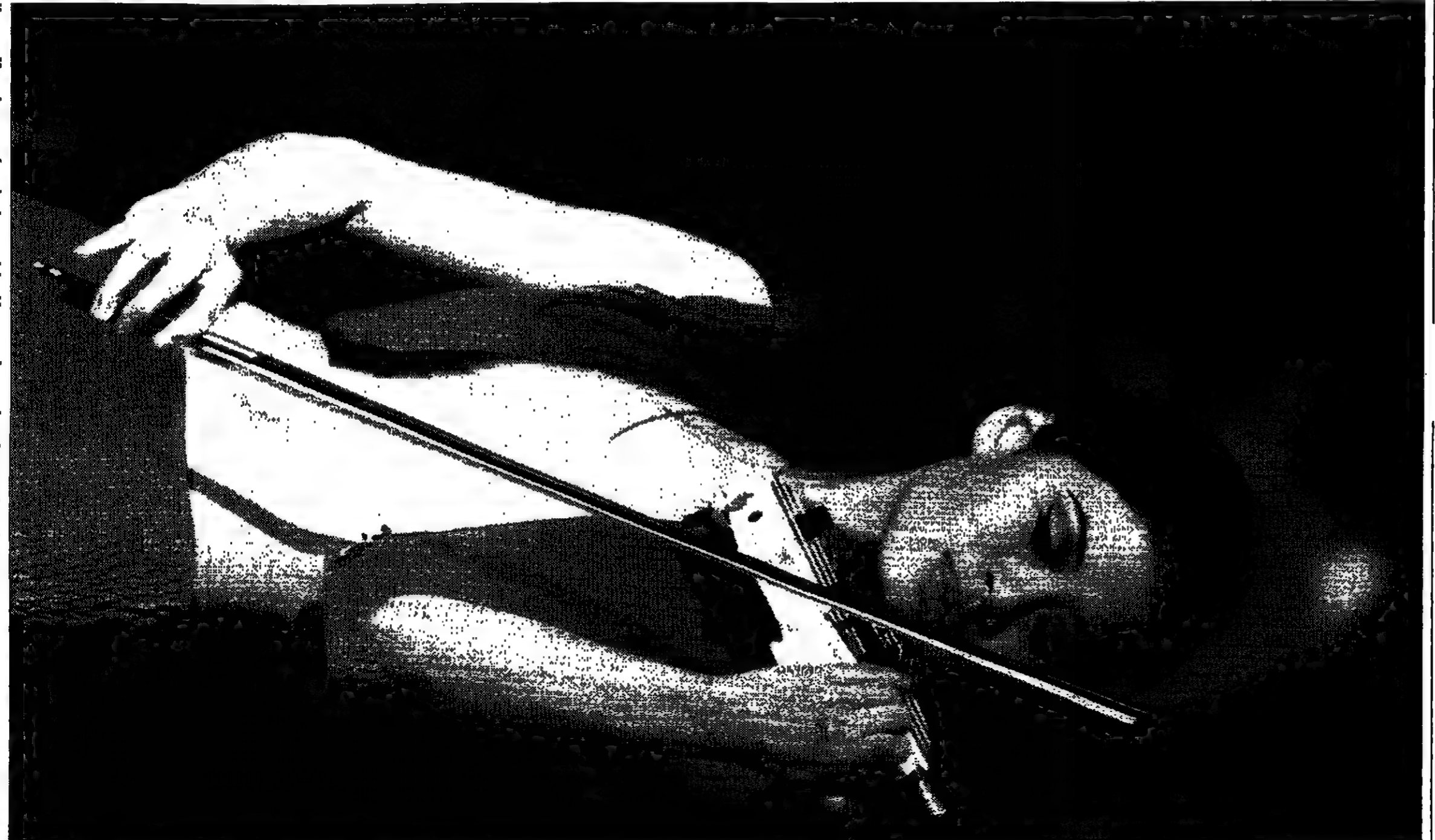
ALARGE public invitation votes to continue his ban on the employment of women. One of the most vocal members of the orchestra is reported as saying that "whenever there are women there are always cables and intrigues. With men there are no resentments like with women."

The invitation in question is the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Maintaining a 100-year tradition, it has again confirmed that it will not be accepting women into its ranks or its files. They aren't good enough, they can't back it, and they certainly can't manage the heavy lifting.

But could it happen in Britain? No, it could not. In fact, nothing could be further from the realities of the musical scene. Put quite simply the news from Britain is all about the inexorable advance of womankind.

Look at the music media. Whether you're talking about the Classic FM Magazine, the BBC Music Magazine or Opera Now, one glance at the shelves in WH Smith or Mezzles and you will be confronted by a cover girl. Not Naomi Campbell or Claudia Schiffer, but one of the Venessa Mae/Cecilia Bartoli/Joanna MacGregor/Lesley Garrett crowd, alluringly and quite possibly scantly clad. From time to time one of those three tenors — the good, the bad or the ugly — might get a look in, but essentially the lions of classical music in this country are on one side of the gender divide. But does this phenomenon extend beyond the star system and into the broader body of music? It certainly does, and it is much more fundamental than a mere title-representation marketing ploy.

You needn't be too long in the footh to remember the days when British orchestras were exclusively male-dominated presences, serviced mainly of semi-orchestrated fellow musicians sporting tall coats and white double-breasted and dominated from the podium by a similarly formidable address of the white stick. Old-fashioned as it may be, the orchestra of Sir Malcolm Sargent at the Proms says it all. Yet if there has been any outcry about this, it's not from the general public but from the general involvement of larger numbers of women.



Violinist Helen Gramscovius female stars are joined by a growing number of women in orchestras

The Guardian Friday August 2 1988

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Classical CD of the week: Sallinen

The Horseman
Sallinen/Valkonen/Birkhella/Valkonen/Serwollina
Opera/Söderström
(Finlandia PACD 101) (two CDs)
*** £26.99

The Red Line
Hjortinen/Valkonen/Vincent/
Finnish National Opera/Kami
(Finlandia 15765-1028) (two CDs)
*** £26.99

U.S.S. SALLINEN, 63 now, is firmly established as the leading Finnish opera composer, but very little of his work has been seen in Britain. In 1987 Covent Garden put on his third stage work, *The King Goes Forth To France*, but that, apart from a Sallinen's *Wells* production of *The Red Line* in the late 1970s, is all that has been seen here. There are five operas to date: *The Falcon* was premiered at the Stockholm Festival last year; the pre-occupation, *Kullervo*, was commissioned to open the new national opera house in Helsinki in 1985. Now the first two, *The Horseman* and *The Red Line*, have just been released on CD in what might be regarded as definitive performances, recorded with the casts that created their roles in the first productions.

They make a shapely contrasted pair. *The Horseman*, which won a national opera competition in Finland in 1978, has an epic sweep, a fondness for grand theatrical gestures and a slightly heavy-handed symbolism threaded throughout by the libretto by the poet, Paavo Haavikko. It is dark, sometimes obscure, with more than a whiff of neo-symbology, and explores the ambiguities of nationalism in a country that was part of the Swedish empire for 200 years and annexed by Russia after that. The main characters, the horseman *Ahti*, and the wife *Anna* (played by Finland's plights) they are seen in the house of a woman he leads a revolt against the Swedes and is fatally wounded.

It is offensive. In a dour, brooding sort of way, but there's no doubt that *The Red Line*, composed three years later, was musically and dramatically an arrival as an act. It remains Sallinen's best opera and the reputation that really made his name and the reputation the action is more lightly focused, the scenario more direct and less cluttered, and the score leaner and less self-obsessed. *The Red Line*, though the story again has an emotional historical, through the story again has strong nationalist overtones. It's set at the time of



The Finnish-Japanese War at the beginning of this century, when the Russian grip was weakening and the Finnish people finally won utterance in the far north of the country and the work charts their destination with the promise of the political story is grim and uncompromising. Though the score is grand and characterized, full of soaringly world ideas, and Jorma Paavola's performance of the role of the orator Topi on these discs is meretricious. There's no doubt *The Red Line* is the best place to begin with Sallinen.

This week's cd releases

- **** Independent
**** Excellent
**** Good
** Medicine
** Appalling

Maceognit Cavallaria Rusticiana
Pavarotti/Winter/Compagnoni/
National Philharmonic/Converzani
(Decca 44 891 2)

Leonore III
Pavarotti/Freni/Wixell/National
Philharmonic/Palmacchi
(Decca 44 892 2)

THBSB performance of the black-nosed old *verismo* double bill are self-recommending. They were recorded in 1976 (Cav) and 1977 (Pag) when Luciano Pavarotti was at the height of his powers, singing with a freedom and relish for every cadence of the text, with supporting cast (Julia Varady compelling as Santuzza in Cav) that match his commitment, and conductors who have every expressive twist of these scores at the tips of their fingers. Only Decca's cynical

British Cantatas I-IV

Richard Rodney Bennett
Raby/Raby/Compton/Raby/
Lloyd/21st Century/Decca
(Killing Classics 141 2)

British Cantatas I-IV
ASIN's version of Britten's vocal music, the vocal of Peter Pears was the omnifactor in the composition of the five cantatas, and the example of Pears' own recordings, with the composer playing the piano in the first four (the fifth, *The Death of Saint Narcissus*, is written for her) and her help in the lyrics for over any other singer, but attempts to demonstrate in opera and song cycle that he can remain the tradition of Britten's interplay, and the composer's own recordings, accompanied by Steven Beddini and abetted by the mezzo-soprano Rita in Cantata II, Abraham and Isaac, and the counter-tenor Derek Lee in Cantata IV, a setting of Elidor's journey. *The Mass*: The performance of the third cantata, *Sid Falls The Lion*, here forms part of a strange Edith Sitwell sequence of recordings by Judith Dench and three other singers, the poet's friend and collaborator when the poet visited Aldeburgh in 1958, and which was never performed again during his lifetime. It's curiously rather than a real discovery, though the cantata itself is a wonderfully ingenious piece of vocal writing. (AC)

marking qualifies the picture. These two performances appeared as a single set of three CDs in 1976, they are now reissued on two separate full-price CDs, which for 20-year-old recordings is a bit steep. (AC)

Leadership quarrels shake ANC

David Beresford
in Johannesburg

SOUTH Africa's African National Congress is being shaken by the most serious leadership squabbles since it came to power in the 1994 majority rule elections.

An extraordinary attack was made on its national leadership yesterday by a man recently sacked from the government for implicating an ANC cabinet minister in a seven-year-old bribery scandal.

General Bantu Holomisa, the former deputy minister of the environment and tourism, suggested that the ANC was in the pocket of the controversial casino boss Sol Kerzner, who is at the centre of the long-running bribe scandal.

The row coincides with moves to dismiss an important regional premier, Patrick Lekota, in a provincial ANC power struggle which could have national repercussions.

Gen Holomisa launched his attack on the ANC leadership in response to the announcement that he is to face "charges" at a forthcoming disciplinary hearing. He is being accused of "bringing the ANC into disrepute" by alleging to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — investigating political crimes of the apartheid era — that the present minister of public enterprises, Stella Sigau, shared in a R2 million bribe Mr Kerzner paid to a business leader in the 1980s for gambling rights in the Transkei.

Gen Holomisa told a Johannesburg press conference that Mr Kerzner had helped to finance the ANC's 1994 election campaign, and that it was well-known he had funded social events for ANC leaders, including the 50th birthday



Zizzi Mandela and Thabo Mbeki both enjoyed favours from Casino boss Sol Kerzner (right)



party of the deputy president, Thabo Mbeki. He said the fact that Mr Kerzner had still not been prosecuted for his admitted bribery created the im-



pression that he was being protected by the ANC in return for favours. He made no reference to a far more striking example of

Kerzner largesse to the ANC — his funding of the high-society wedding and honeymoon of President Mandela's daughter Zizzi.

He blamed Mr Mbeki for trying to have him expelled from the ANC.

It is understood that President Mandela made strenuous efforts recently to protect Gen Holomisa from possible expulsion, with a series of frantic telephone calls — one to the general's home at 3am — pleading with him to apologise to Ms Sigau for the bribery allegation. Gen Holomisa refused.

There are fears in some ANC quarters that Mr Mbeki may also have a hand in the efforts to unseat Mr Lekota — and that it might be part of a wider strategy by the deputy president to get his supporters into key positions in anticipation of his succession to

the presidency when Mr Mandela retires.

Mr Lekota has been embroiled in a long-running dispute with other ANC leaders in the Free State province, who have already managed to force him out of the provincial chairmanship of the party. The power struggle also involves corruption allegations.

Mr Lekota was one of the most respected leaders of the United Democratic Front, effectively the internal wing of the ANC in the 1980s. Keeping an Afrikaans bible by his bedside, and taking a keen interest in rugby, he is credited with having done much to dispel possible tensions with the deeply conservative Afrikaners in the Free State.

Gen Holomisa, who received his military training in the South African defence force in the apartheid years, and

was at one stage military leader of the Transkei, is nevertheless extremely popular with rank and file members of the ANC. Something of a loose cannon politically, he has shown himself to be a master of intrigue.

The row over the bribery allegations has also created a rift between Archbishop Desmond Tutu's truth commission and Mr Mandela. The commission criticised the ANC for sacking Gen Holomisa, protesting that the government was creating the impression that he was being dismissed for testifying.

Mr Mandela promptly rebuked the commission, accusing it of interfering in the presidential prerogative to hire and fire ministers. The commission said this week it was seeking a meeting with the ANC leadership to iron out their differences.

News in brief

Colombian peasants defend cocaine crop

TENS of thousands of peasants staged protests across a vast jungle area of southern Colombia yesterday against the government's United States-backed drug crop eradication programme.

The demonstrations, which the government of President Ernesto Samper insists are orchestrated by leftwing guerrillas and drug traffickers, have since spread to three other southern provinces. More than 50,000 people are blocking roads and airports and occupying small towns to protest against the destruction of what they say is their only source of income.

Meanwhile, the French president, Jacques Chirac, endorsed Mr Samper's efforts to fight cocaine production. Mr Samper, on a visit to Paris, said he had asked the European Union to maintain its aid for his crop substitution programme. Mr Chirac also said he was prepared to add a \$148 million bilateral loan, a Colombian official said. — *Reuters, Bogota.*

Life for HIV rapists

THE Kenyan parliament has unanimously backed mandatory life imprisonment for HIV-infected rapists and anyone found guilty of deliberately infecting victims with the virus.

MPs said on Wednesday that they were concerned about the rapid spread of Aids, and criticised courts for lenient sentences for rapists and sex offenders infected with HIV.

An estimated 9.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are HIV-positive or have full-blown Aids. — *Reuters, Nairobi.*

Neo-Nazis under scrutiny

FOUR French neo-Nazis were yesterday placed under formal investigation in connection with the desecration six years ago of 54 Jewish graves in Carpentras, Provence.

The attack on May 10 1990 was followed by a series of police blunders, court actions and false arrests, and an outpouring of public emotion. Politicians across the spectrum were accused of manipulating the attack for their own ends.

According to the police, the four men were arrested after Yannick Garnier, aged 26, gave himself up on Tuesday in Avignon and named three accomplices.

Mr Garnier said he and four other skinheads — one of whom has since died in a motorcycle accident — desecrated the graves to mark the anniversary of Hitler's birth. The men, linked to a far-right group named as the French and European National Party (FNPE), also desecrated the body of an elderly Jewish man buried a fortnight earlier. — *Alan Duval Smith, Paris.*

Feline flood warning

TWO Swedish cats caused £30,000 worth of damage after flooding their owner's house while locked up in the bathroom. Their crestfallen owner, Roger Sjoberg, said he had come home to find the house flooded and two frightened cats sitting on the shower cage.

"We normally lock them up in the bathroom to stop them wrecking the place while we're out," he told the tabloid newspaper Kvalleposten. — *Reuters, Stockholm.*



The first known Siamese twin tortoises, born a week ago at Israel's Hebrew University, may live but share 100 mazy organs to be separated

British spy row 'hurts Russia'

A MOSCOW diplomat accused of spying for Britain seriously damaged Russia's national interests, the country's top security official was quoted as saying yesterday by the news agency. But Nikolai Kovalyov, director of the Federal Security Service, said the incident in May would "not affect our diplomatic relations with Great Britain."

In the cold-war-style row, Britain declared four Russian diplomats *persona non grata* in response to Moscow's expulsion of four British embassy staff. It accused them of links to Platon Oubukhov, a second secretary in the foreign ministry and a thriller writer since charged with high treason. — *Reuters, Moscow.*

The jokes are very sharp. Bruce's Oscar acceptance speech — "I stand here on legs of fire . . . you are the wind beneath me wings and I flap for you . . ." — is a fine parody of that notoriously rapid rhetorical form. Mark Lawson on Ben Elton's Popcorn

Jail threat to Megawati in Indonesian crackdown

Nick Cumming-Bruce
in Jakarta

THE Indonesian authorities have warned the opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri that she may be charged with subversion for inciting the riots last weekend which produced the country's worst violence in more than 20 years.

The police say they are waiting for the necessary permission from President Suharto to question members of parliament to call in Megawati and her PDI allies.

Sharply attacking the government's campaign against Megawati, ousted as leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) by a military-sponsored congress in June, the justice minister, Oetjo Oesman, said yesterday: "The punishment that could be meted out to the PDI officials is as heavy as that to the people who rioted."

Subversion, the most serious offence under Indonesian law, carries a maximum sentence of death.

The charge levelled at Megawati and her allies is that they were responsible for the so-called "freedom forum" staged in front of the PDI's Jakarta headquarters after she was relieved of the PDI leadership.

Her supporters used the forum to keep up a constant barrage of speeches demanding more democracy, criticising the government — and infuriating Suharto.

The forum only ended when police stormed the PDI headquarters last weekend, triggering riots in which at least three people died and 34 buildings were destroyed or damaged.

Since then the security forces have arrested more than 230 people, and Oesman's threat reinforces the signs that security chiefs are gearing up for a general crackdown against "communist" and "Islamic" elements.

The detention of the labour leader Muchtar Fatmahan-



Marines bar the way to the Jakarta court where Megawati Sukarnoputri has begun a case against the government

lata on Tuesday night has stirred little popular reaction in or out of Jakarta.

But a diplomat said: "If they moved against Megawati, we would have another situation altogether."

The toughness of the justice minister's message suggests either official disquiet or embarrassment at the legal challenge initiated by Megawati's lawyers yesterday to reclaim the chairmanship of the PDI. Jakarta has been bracing it-

self for a possible eruption of further demonstrations, but the authorities have thrown a huge security cordon around the central district court, complete with army sharpshooters positioned on rooftops and bridges.

Several hundred troops and riot police, backed by armoured personnel carriers and fire engines, have been deployed at main road junctions and in sidestreets as police officers armed with

tear gas protect the court.

It was a further indication of the sensitivity of the case that the presiding judge, I Ketut Sukarata, who two days ago heard a much-publicised murder trial, was absent with "toothache".

To jeers from Megawati's followers crammed into the court, two subordinate judges postponed the hearing until August 22.

Megawati is using the court case to try to establish who is

allowed to choose the leaders of the three officially sanctioned political parties — and as such is mounting a challenge unprecedented during Suharto's 31 years in power.

"She wants to show that it is not the government which has the final say but the members of the party," explained her faction's treasurer, Laksmans Sukardi.

Her chances of winning in Indonesia's courts are at best 50-50. But even if the case

fails, Megawati's lawyers are filing several hundred more suits against participants in the June congress.

These will not only provide a focus for her supporters but could take two years or more to grind through the high court and the court of appeal.

In the process, Sukarni believes, they will serve as "a sort of referendum on whether we should live in a state of power or a state of law".

Arabs look to Europe to break peace impasse



Other worlds

David Hirst

TWO weeks ago, Germany brokered a deal under which Hizbullah exchanged the bodies of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon for those of 123 of its fighters. It was a minor affair, marking no real improvement in relations between all the parties involved — Iran, Syria, Israel, Lebanon and

Hizbullah. But the Germans saw it as a breakthrough, and spoke of "the desire in the region" for them "to get involved more heavily in political negotiations, and for the European Union as a whole to do the same".

It was part of a trend which had found much more significant expression two months earlier. When Israel launched its Grapes of Wrath assault on Lebanon, France launched its boldest piece of Middle East diplomacy in years. The foreign minister, Hervé de Charette went to the region and competed with his American counterpart, Warren Christopher, in negotiating a truce.

This encroachment on a traditional United States preserve annoyed not just Israel and the US, but even some of France's European partners, especially Britain. But Mr De Charette — who was in Algeria yesterday meeting President Lamine Zeroual — was unrepentant. Back in Beirut last month he said that France was now a "major actor" in the Middle East and

would be launching new attempts to investigate the "peace process".

The "peace process" is of course the core issue on which any distinctive European policy for the Middle East would necessarily focus. For too long Europe has basically left it to the US to shape the West's higher strategies in the region. The Arabs, essentially out of subject weakness, have connived in this, thinking that the more they flattered the US, the more of

themselves, the US found nothing wrong with the deliberate shelling of a UN base at Qana and the villagers sheltering there; still less could it see any moral equivalence with the "terror" coming from the other side.

However disappointed it was at the defeat of Shimon Peres, champion of Pax Americana, the Clinton administration has been busy acclimatising itself to the new Israeli prime minister ever since. It blithely ignores the fact that

that US policy will lead to the destruction of the peace process.

For Israel and the US, the "war on terror" is but a way of transferring the Arab-Israeli struggle from the moral and political grounds on which it properly belongs to security ones which are merely derivative of it. And it is absurd to fight Arab or Muslim terror without any acknowledgement that there is an Israeli terror too.

It becomes a matter of obvious self-interest when, on Israel's behalf, the US expects the Europeans to go along with sanctions, damaging to commerce, in the service of a political agenda on which they disagree anyway.

Europe balked at doing that in Paris this week. But it is not enough. With Mr Clinton's acquiescence in the aggressive, expansionist Zionism Mr Netanyahu embodies, Europe needs to develop a Middle East policy which systematically challenges that of the US on the moral and political fundamentals.

Unlike the US, the EU did condemn the Qana massacre. And in a formal statement it echoed the demand of the recent Arab summit that, for the peace process to continue, Israel must return to the key principles — "land for peace" and self-determination for the Palestinians — which Mr Netanyahu has repudiated.

But the evolution of a common European policy is a halting process. It is clearly not one that Britain, with its transatlantic affinities, is going to lead; nor can Germany, with its guilty past. France is the obvious candidate.

Israeli PM 'in secret talks with Syria on Lebanon'

Debra Linder in Jerusalem

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU has secretly met a Syrian envoy in Jerusalem to discuss a possible Israeli troop pull-out from Lebanon as a first step towards peace with Damascus, an Israeli newspaper reported yesterday.

The meeting, at the request of Syria, took place shortly before the Israeli prime minister visited the United States on July 8, the daily Ha'aretz reported. It said only Mr Netanyahu and two of his advisers knew about the meeting.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the two sides were feeling out each other's positions and there had been movement in exploratory contacts.

Mr Netanyahu's media adviser, David Bar Ilan, dismissed the report, however. "We deny it. It didn't happen," he said. Damascus had no immediate comment.

In remarks published in Syrian newspapers yesterday, President Hafez al-Assad vowed to continue working towards a "just and comprehensive peace that puts an end to aggression".

But President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon said in Beirut that his country's option of a "Lebanon-first" approach and favoured a comprehensive peace agreement. — *AP.*

● Jordan's King Hussein will travel to Syria tomorrow on his first visit since Amman's 1994 peace treaty with Israel strained relations.

The US is more partisan than ever. Clinton is a totally dishonest broker

at "honest broker" it was likely to be.

But its effect has been the opposite — merely hastening the relentless "colonisation" of American politics. The US has become more partisan than ever, secure in the knowledge that weak Arab governments will never penalise it. President Clinton, the culmination of this trend, barely has a Middle East policy at all, other than swallowing what Israel wants. He is a totally dishonest broker.

America's response to two recent events — Grapes of Wrath and the electoral victory of Binyamin Netanyahu — swept away the last Arab doubts about that.

Definitions of terrorism and how to combat it are now a key yardstick of partisanship in the Middle East. Yet in flagrant contrast to the United Nations, Amnesty International, and just about everyone except the Israelis

Europe balked at doing that in Paris this week. But it is not enough.

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Edinburgh

Music 7

Statistics for slaughter

Yet again we are deceived about what we eat

AT THE very least, the Government's announcement that one in every hundred calves born to BSE-infected cows will inherit the disease raises important questions about the effectiveness of the measures being taken to eradicate it.

According to MAFF, the measures already taken against BSE acknowledged the theoretical possibility of maternal transmission of the disease. There is therefore, MAFF concludes, no need to take any new measures, because the old ones will sweep up any cases from this new source.

In any event, the admission at this stage of cow-to-calf transmission of BSE is a major indictment of the way in which our scientists have conducted their research into this extensive disease.

For New Deal, read raw deal

Clinton's welfare measures will hit poor Americans hard

BILL CLINTON's promise in the 1992 presidential campaign to "end welfare as we know it" is turning out to be all too true. As the next election approaches he has bowed to a Republican Congress, signing a bill which abolishes the federal safety net set up after the Depression to protect those most at risk.

The original thrust of Mr Clinton's campaign proposal four years ago was to provide new jobs for many of those out of work and funds to enable them to be trained, so that the huge federal budget could be cut as "welfare checks were replaced with paychecks."

doxy that feed was overwhelmingly the key to BSE. Now, as though from nowhere, we are presented with an authoritative statement that it not only can be transmitted by birth, but also that it is. Note the words in the MAFF announcement yesterday. "One per cent of calves born to cows which die of BSE will themselves die of BSE caught from their mothers".

It is not just the substance of yesterday's announcement which is disturbing, but the disgraceful way it was made. Yesterday's press release shows that the findings were circulated to a meeting of the Government's own Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee on July 19.

IVF, however, does not address infertility, but offers a "cure" for the socially constructed "problem" of childlessness. Childlessness can only be seen as a problem by reference to the pervasive, normative image of the happy family unit which, increasingly, resembles the real lives of fewer and fewer people.

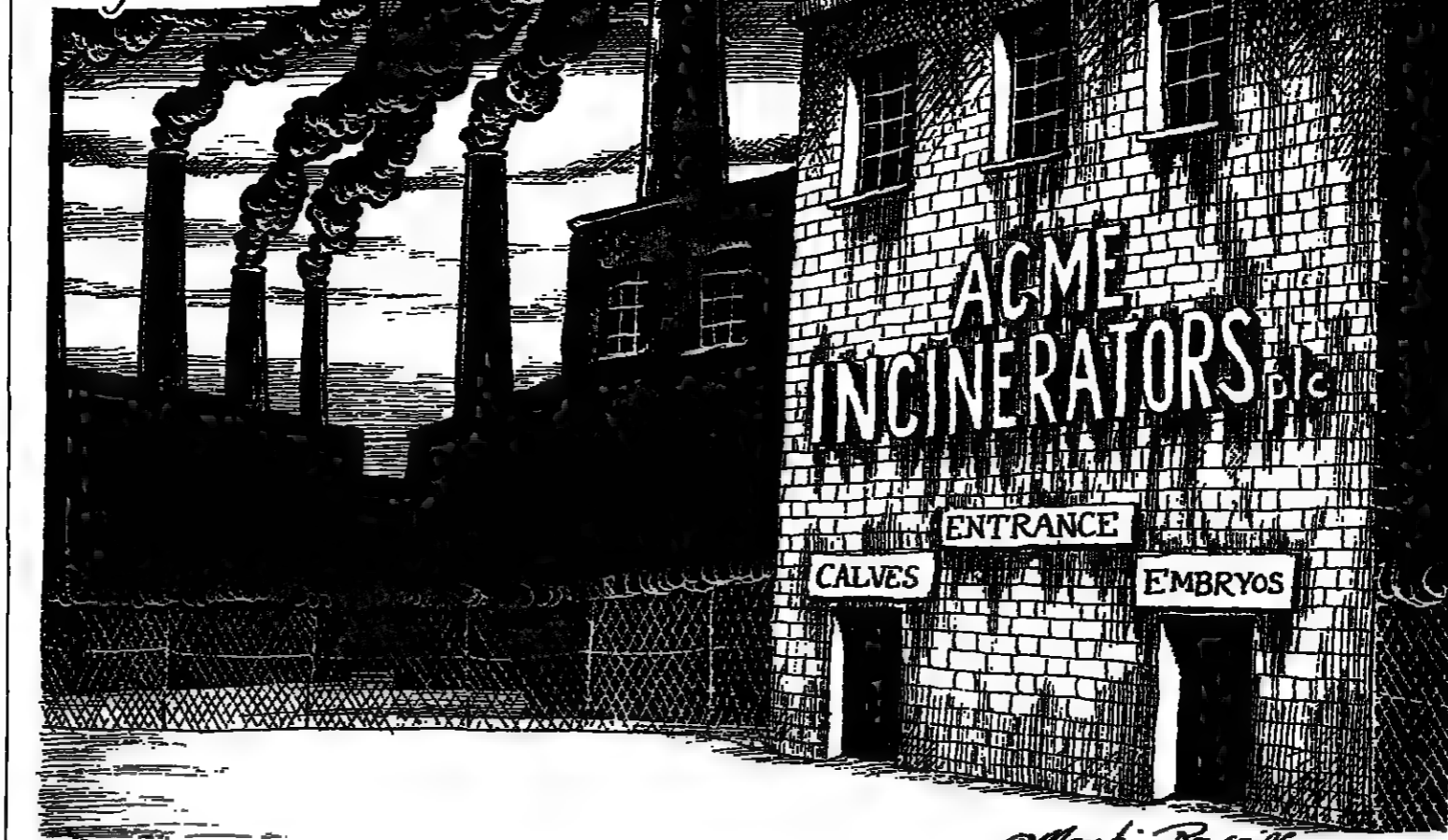
Nutty answer to the red in peril

YOUR cuts back page picture of a red squirrel was unfortunately used to designate another mammal, the grey squirrel.

GREY squirrels, the astute residents of city parks, suburban gardens and woodlands are to be fed food laced with rat poison so they become ravenously and fly themselves over large furless areas with small ears and eyes.

Mr Clinton has argued that the bill is at least less bad than before: it is no longer linked to cuts in Medicare and represents a "real step forward."

Beyond Satire



Letters to the Editor

Tragic legacy of IVF

INFERTILITY, like any other physiological dysfunction, is, as Hugo Young suggests (Science) that produces more death than life, Aug 1), a misfortune. But, as misfortunes go, it surely ranks low compared to, say, losing one's legs or sight or to the hopelessness of long-term unemployment.

IVF, however, does not address infertility, but offers a "cure" for the socially constructed "problem" of childlessness. Childlessness can only be seen as a problem by reference to the pervasive, normative image of the happy family unit which, increasingly, resembles the real lives of fewer and fewer people.

THE remark on radio by Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Clinic, that stored embryos could be used as a "replacement" for a child who dies must be as offensive to any caring parent as it is indicative of the emotional and ethical nightmare which opportunistic practitioners, abetted by a feeble regulatory regime, have unleashed.

The gradual greening of Labour

HUGO Young has a point in criticising an environmental grounds Labour's latest policy statement, but he's unfair to the Party's wider commitment. The Road To The Manifesto is indeed thin on environmental pledges.

HUGO Young talks about Labour's environmental agenda as though Europe did not exist. Standards of air quality, of water quality, the framework for much of waste management and policy on dangerous chemicals are substantially the affair of the EU these days.

Lulu's life Lenin's death

I WOULD have thought Hello! was a more suitable place for Lulu's Diary. (G2 July 31). Was I the only one not to find funny the anecdote about the TWA plane's wreckage polluting the beach of her planned holiday?

HAD Lenin revealed the New Economic Policy to the 10th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in March 1924 (When's World, July 31) its members would indeed have been astonished.

We were not built to handle this question, and the stress of it makes us wrongly see an embryo as a kind of child, and the moral importance of its death taking precedence over the (very definite) suffering of the trite couple.

THE moral dilemma is this. If we can bear to overcome our instinctive horror at the thought of deliberately killing these embryos, what else can we bear to do?

HUGO Young says that IVF should be stopped because it results in more death than life. His argument leads to the conclusion that we should not permit the reproductive method where the numbers of rejected embryos is the least.

I FIND it ironic that frozen embryos have been destroyed across the country using alcohol. Mothers beware.

Now they've suddenly "discovered" a convenient virus the greys give to the reds. What virus? Who discovered it? When - and, if it exists, where's the evidence that reds get it from the greys, since feeding habits now mean they can rarely co-exist?

Lulu's life Lenin's death

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A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: Summer care for the flock, now that a dip is no longer mandatory, is more a case of inspection and treatment. Our Herdwicks seem a generally trouble-free breed. They are less liable to minor ovine complaints than the Black Welsh or the Jacobs that we have had in earlier years.

Need or greed brings Lottery money to the capital?

WHY is it that John Major and Mrs Bottomley can hand out Lottery money? I thought there were quotas of the great and good whose job it was to do this.

SINCE when has the Government been responsible for the allocation of Lottery funds? First, the Prime Minister with the Manchester centre rebuilding, then Ian Sproat with our Olympic Team rebuilding.

HUGH Bayley MP says that figures extracted from the Lottery regulator, Oflot, prove that English regions and the east Midlands in particular are losing out to London.

THE level of deprivation in parts of London is the worst in Britain. The demand for funds from voluntary and community groups demonstrates the capital's need, not its greed.

Learning shorthand on the job

IN order to get the sex workers off the streets and into the prospect of a better job, could not the brothels run secretarial courses alongside their principal business?

YOUR Leader (Old profession: new thinking, July 30) asks how society can accommodate prostitution while minimising its associated problems.

The number of "saunas" and "health clubs" has mushroomed in the past few years. These places tend to be found in commercial rather than residential locations.

So the Amsterdam red light district represents a "civilised" alternative to the present UK situation concerning brothels (Letters, July 31).

In the

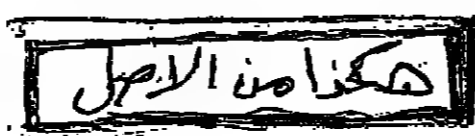
and, if you are not watchful, in a very short time the sheep is being literally eaten alive by a swarming mass of bloated maggots which burrow into the flesh. So the best treatment is prevention and it is supplied by a compound called Vetrazine which is sprayed in a trail down the spine of the animal and spreads laterally to provide protection for a six week period.

Brent into Willesden won't go

The answer is simple: make them two boroughs again

IF LOCAL people agree, the London borough of Brent may shortly be struck from municipal directories. The council voted this week to consider the case for a change. The marriage of Willesden with Wembley which constituted Brent would continue as before, but a new name would be found: "Wembley & Willesden", perhaps. This, proponents suggest, could lift the blight which has settled on Brent over the past two decades, as "barmy Brent" when Labour were in and "Bent" once the Tories took over.

thanks to the stadium, everyone knows where Wembley is, which cannot be said of Willesden. But such theories mistake an important truth about local loyalties. For many, there's nowhere quite as repellent as the suburb next door. In that context, changing the name to Wembley and Willesden might make their union even less stable, rather than more.



Diary
Matthew Norman

CONFUSION surrounds the spiritual journey of Margaret Thatcher. Previously known as a less than fanatical Methodist, the Baroness has recently been noted in devout prayer at the Chapel Royal in St James's Palace...

THIRSE are dread days for the grey squirrel. Following reports that they are being culled to save their red cousins from extinction, we rang Lord Wyatt of Weoford at his Tuscan holiday home...

TWO contenders emerge in the quest for the August Book of the Month. One is Moty's Diary, "John Motson's personal record of the 95/96 football season"...

THE campaign to register Bolmondely Relief has sidestepped early problems. On receiving the Charity Commissioners' starting pack, we were alarmed by paragraph 14 of form CCI (So You Want To Start A Charity?)...

SPLENDID news from Norway, where ballerina Mette Lil Johansen, 30, has won a dream home in a competition. Miss Johansen picked up the £70,000 house by clinging to a wall for five days...

HIS LAST WORDS WERE: "LOOK, THERE'S A PARK CAR!"

Why cigarettes are hard to stub out

Commentary
Peter Preston

THE man in the fringed cowboy shirt, cowboy belt and boots, stood curiously huddled behind a bush in Spring Street, St Helena. You expected upstage California swagger...

This week's special horror is prolonged airline-security chaos in no-smoking airports. Give the terrorists an extra kick. Watch passengers turn grey and green and start to shake compulsively.

Here, by common consent, California rides the highest political wave. The regulations are tighter, the zealotry of the enforcement keener. Smokers are ground down year after year from 25 per cent to 20 now, and falling...

Link you have to look to price and tax rises. The deepest independent research by Martin Duffy at Leicester University concludes, at first glance bizarrely, that a total ban would probably increase cigarette smoking a little...

By chance, a couple of weeks ago, I found myself chairing a private Cambridge seminar which brought advertisers, agencies and battling pressure groups together. We spent a long, hot afternoon on tobacco advertising. Towards the end, playing Dumbleby, I asked who, after all debate, still supported a ban...

OTHER practicalities. If the tobacco companies can't spend their money on ads — over \$50 million a year in the press alone, a great many journalists' wages — what will they do next? No need to guess, because they tell us precisely what will happen...

Not easily, because tobacco smuggling from Europe and beyond grows exponentially as the price-differential rises. Ken Clarke is already having to hold drink taxes in check...

He's potentially no freer with cigarettes. Europe's fabled single market boxes him in a Europe which pays hundreds of millions every year to subsidise its tobacco growers and likes its advertising ban because it takes competitive pressure off residual state tobacco companies...

In detail, then, there is nothing simple about a ban. Even small steps towards it provide unexpected complexity. The latest voluntary British smoking ban, for example, has been a disaster in the vicinity of schools...

Come into the kitchen for breakfast

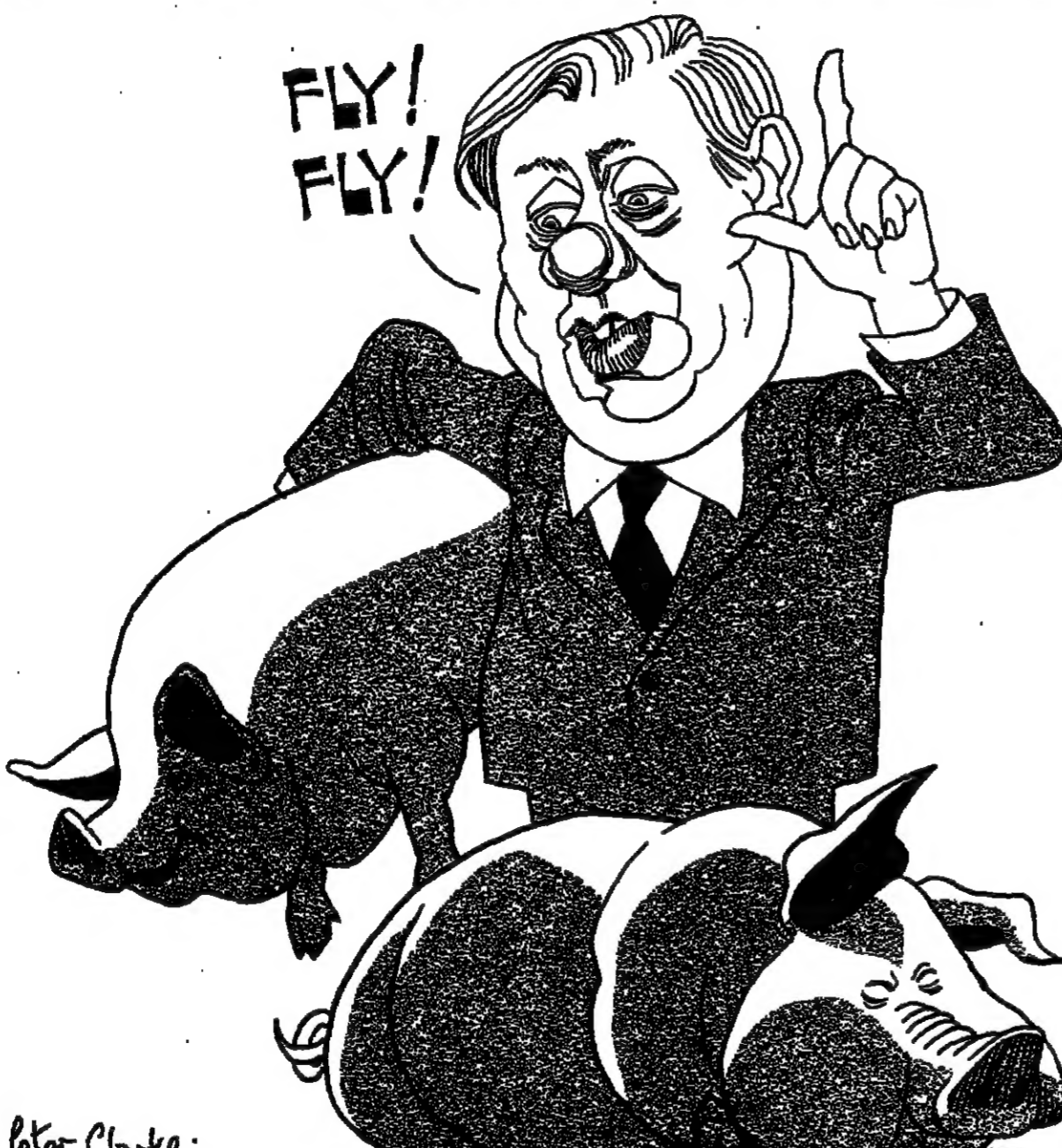


Bel Littlejohn

THERE'S so much to read in the papers, there really is. That's not to say there isn't room for improvement. Personally, I wish there were more foreign news in the broadsheets, but then that's just the kind of person I am — serious, thoughtful and with my own far-reaching perspective on world affairs...

which definitely makes much more sense in the long run. I made myself a cup of tea but when I poured the milk it floated in globs to the surface. I realised at once that it was off. On the radio, they were talking about the Northern Ireland situation, and whether in the long run the two nations would be united...

Still just 7.35am, and 600 words later I've hardly even finished breakfast! As I have long suspected, the details of my day-to-day life are proving a very rich source of inspiration for this award-winning column. Next week, I'll tell you what it's like getting dressed, and in a fortnight you'll learn all about the way I brush my teeth...



Peter Clarke

In the real world

Gordon Brown dismisses Roy Hattersley's dream of 'equality of outcome' as a nice idea in theory, but of no practical value to a new Labour government

WAS brought up in Scotland in the 1950s to believe in a Britain where a commitment to equality reflected our passion for social justice. Now in 1996 we live in a Britain where inequality is growing faster than ever before on a scale undreamt of when the welfare state was created in 1945...

part company is on Roy's insistence on equality of outcome, a goal which even he himself admits can never be achieved. Socialism, Roy, must stand well clear of impossibility. Our aim is genuine equality of opportunity for all — and to make that happen will be the central goal of the next Labour government.

more important than ever today. For now in the 1990s in the new economy, equality of opportunity is also the key to economic prosperity. Why? Because we are in a fast-changing information-based economy dominated by the importance of knowledge, the skills of people and their ability to adapt. Indeed, the defining characteristic of economy is less an individual's ability to gain access to capital and far more his or her ability to use it creatively.

style equality of opportunity, the one-off, pass-fail educational chance until 16 at school that if lost means a lifetime of failure. The equality of opportunity I support is recurrent, lifelong and comprehensive: political, cultural, social and economic opportunities for all, with an obligation on Government to pursue them relentlessly.

New Internationalist magazine

John doesn't get it

SO HE DOESN'T KNOW that free markets economics is making poor people poorer, he doesn't see the connection between personal greed and the state we're in, and he doesn't understand that helping yourself can be at the expense of others. Don't be like John — get the NI.

Post to: New Internationalist, FREEPOST SG599, PO Box 79, Hertford SG14 1YB

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YES I'd like to see my 3 free issues and free step. I'll decide to cancel. I will write and tell you within 10 days of receiving my third issue. If I wish to continue, I need do nothing. Starting from the 1st of the following month, you will charge my account quarterly, until cancelled, the NI subscription price (over £15).

Ivan Lalić

A fusion of cultures

IVAN V LALIC, who has died aged 65, had become former Yugoslavia's greatest contemporary poet...

about his poetry's central theme. He picked up a book "My childhood and boyhood in the war marked very strongly everything I ever wrote as a poem..."

But I remained, to grow on with their gaze in the naps of my neck, like a rusty needle just under the skin, but also, slowly, to come to love the night and her soft stars again.

Memory suffuses his poems. As "spaces of hope" where the individual can briefly preserve the past.

Lalić came to prominence in the mid-1960s, as part of the cultural blossoming — especially in poetry — which forced Tito's Communist party to relinquish control over literature.

slightly older Vasko Popa, whose weird, brilliant, atavistic verse played a key role in convincing apparatchiks that there was more to literature than partisan epics and pseudo-folk songs...

In theme and tone, he formed part of the European modernist mainstream. His first links were to other Mediterranean poets — Montale, Sefiris. But also to a wider European and American tradition: Hölderlin, Rilke and Valéry, Yeats, Eliot and Pound's Catulay, even to the poets of Tang dynasty China.

His language, though the ideas it expressed grew more complex in his later verse, never aimed for incoherence or cheap effects, whatever the fashion — "while some played the saxophone and others the peasant flute, I just sat in the corner and played my cello," he once said of his role in 1950s literary polemics.

This self-sufficiency meant that his verse, though it immediately won prizes only slowly gained wider domestic recognition. But his home reputation is now all the stronger because he was

not ephemeral or flashy. During the 1980s he was recognised as a poet of major European stature. Recent awards were the American Thornton Wilder Prize (1990), the British European Poetry Translation Prize (1991), and Italy's Rosone d'oro (1995). He read at many British and international poetry festivals.

His international allegiance and wide focus meant that his verse did not directly reflect his country's deepening 1990s crisis. What we do see is a change, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, from the wide historical panoramas of his "middle period" back to the personal concerns of his earlier verse — but with a darkness and sense of impending chaos. As in the 1975 poem Broadcast (from Fading Contact, Anvil Press):

The broadcast is vitally important, they say, the last before a long, long night. Without love, and no-one can recall now how the contact first started to fade.

Recent years brought the death of his son on a yachting voyage across the self-same Adriatic that figures so vividly in Ivan's poems. And with the war, his lifetime to his beloved sea was cut. As a Serb, he could not visit his second home — his real, spiritual home — in Rovinj, which is on Croatia's Istrian coast, almost opposite Venice.

These losses were perhaps still too keen to be expressed in verse at the time of his death. But throughout his work, we see the strength and support he drew from his love for his wife Branka, whose calm warmth and incisive wit so aptly complemented Ivan's mercurial sparkiness and the dynamism of his immense cultural knowledge.

For years I have known us are disappearing together; you burnt through with the star of my memory, outside which you steadily diminish, myself beautifully dispersed in you, in every afternoon, in every room, in every day. In everything which fills you slowly, like sand filling a riverbed; and this, our moment, lasts longer than another's death.

His own death, from heart failure, came mercifully swiftly. He leaves his wife, Branka, and a son, Marko.

Francis R Jones

A garden turned in compass towards the sea and steeped in the blue anaesthetics of afternoon shadows. The old lines of light, yellowing and frayed. And the sea's fire between the trees...

When interviewed in 1983 for BBC Radio 3, he was asked



Memory and conflict... Lalić's work was marked by his experience of growing up in the second world war



The perfect guide... Peter Martini (centre) in St Petersburg for a break after the elections, with a Russian friend (left) and Neil Drake, a BBC colleague

Right man in Russia

PETER MARTINI, who has died aged 31 in a road accident near Novgorod in Russia, was a highly respected and widely liked television producer with the BBC's foreign news department.

He taught himself to be a brave and efficient journalist in the field, where it really counted. By the time of his death he had worked for every major news organisation in Moscow and gained the respect of them all. He took risks but he was also eminently practical.

I last saw Peter at a Moscow winter five years ago when he was working for Tass, the Soviet news agency which was struggling to find a role in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War.

But Peter was not a brilliant student. When we were at primary school together near Bristol his greatest success was the first prize he won impersonating Elvis Presley in a fancy-dress competition. With his big moon face, blond hair and protruding ears, it was a bizarre choice but in full costume his likeness to the king of rock 'n' roll was remarkable.

But the job had its perks — a vast, rent-free government apartment, first bite at breakfast news from Tass correspondents and, much more important, a Tass identity card, which allowed him to bypass the legions of petty bureaucrats which still highlighted the country.

Peter Martini was the most unideological of Soviet journalists. Unlike many other children of the Cold War drawn to the crumbling superpower, his love for Russia didn't come from a misplaced feeling of socialist nostalgia for what might have been.

Ben Brown, BBC foreign affairs correspondent, adds Peter had spent months planning every detail of the presidential election coverage with typical enthusiasm and extraordinary skill. Russia was Peter's great love; he spoke the language wonderfully well and understood its people and politics better than many analysts and correspondents.

I was with him at the height of the war in Chechnya, where he showed quite exceptional courage and helped save the life of a cameraman. He had only just started with the BBC when we lost him, a brilliant career ended as it was taking off, a marvellous life cut horribly short.

Peter Martini, journalist, born February 16, 1965; died July 9, 1996

Birthdays

Eddie Bell, chairman and publisher, 74; Peter O'Toole, actor, 67; Kathleen Peyton, children's writer, 67; Lord Shuttleworth, chairman, Rural Development Commission, 48; Prof Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, mathematician, 86; Rose Treanor, novelist and playwright, 52; Alan Tuffin, former leader, Union of Communication Workers, 62; Lord Waddington QC, Governor of Bermuda, 67; Alan Whicker, broadcaster, 71; Sir Brian Wolfson, chairman, Britishvision, 61.

Letters

Anthony Walker writes: Mervyn Cooke's obituary July 29 was permeated by Anthony Steel in the Harry Witt-directed film Where No Villains Fly (1971). The movie was important in making many of us of the industry's wartime generation into lifelong conservationists.

Deaths

86; Sammy McIlroy, football manager, 42; Sir Reginald Murely, surgeon, 80; Lord Murray, former TUC general secretary, 74; Peter O'Toole, actor, 67; Kathleen Peyton, children's writer, 67; Lord Shuttleworth, chairman, Rural Development Commission, 48; Prof Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, mathematician, 86; Rose Treanor, novelist and playwright, 52; Alan Tuffin, former leader, Union of Communication Workers, 62; Lord Waddington QC, Governor of Bermuda, 67; Alan Whicker, broadcaster, 71; Sir Brian Wolfson, chairman, Britishvision, 61.

Engagements

REARDON/MULHOLLAND: Dr Nicola Reardon, daughter of Brian Reardon of Berkeley and Jean Mulholland, and Eric Mulholland, have become engaged. Their nuptial will have every future happiness.

Marriages

PARKATONES: The marriage is announced of Mr Stuart Park and Mrs Jane Atone, which was held yesterday at Chelsea Register Office.

Peter Ludwig Sweet taste of fame

PETER LUDWIG, the German art collector and chocolate magnum opus who has died aged 71, was a generous benefactor but a notorious egotist who delighted in having entire museums as well as individual collections named after him.

Known as "Mr More" in the New York art world, Ludwig bought art in huge quantities, ignoring critics' sneers at his enthusiasm for Pop Art, Soviet painting and contemporary Cuban art. He collected everything from Aztec art to baroque porcelain, from medieval manuscripts to Nazi sculpture, and in 1990 he bought a new painting every day.

Born into a cultivated merchant family in Koblenz, Ludwig was introduced to contemporary art while still a schoolboy, to become a teenage cultural functionary for the Nazis as a member of the Hitler Youth but he had lost faith in fascism and in his mentor Albert Speer by 1942 and turned from politics to academia, studying for a doctorate in art history.

Under pressure from his family, he abandoned his ambition to become an art historian and turned his hand to business. After marrying the daughter of a chocolate manufacturer, he took over the running of two large chocolate factories in Aachen.



Ludwig... making himself a big name in art collections

quint. Though some critics complained that he was the very model of an American collector who "sees with his ears", Ludwig saw himself as a pioneer, discovering new art movements and re-evaluating neglected art.

Jackdaw

domesticating animals and plants. In some ways this is urban art, among the oldest yet discovered. You can see that in its size as well as its materials. Earlier hunter-gatherers would not have carried around works so big and breakable...

Silent spring

WHEN the pyramids of Giza were shimmering and new, these figures already were as ancient as the pyramids now. Five of these old figures — most of them near life-sized — were found 12 years ago in 'Ain Ghazal' in what today is Jordan...

Coarse horse

"EITHER the horse coos, or I do." So what happens next? For most horse-wringing women, there's a simple answer, because when it comes to choosing between horses and men, old four legs wins at a center. More than 70 per cent of you admitted

BritFood

HOW about starting with a Szechwan pork salad? Have I strayed into a Chinese? No, it's on the Modern British menu at the Chiswick in West London. Let's try again: deep fried bacon, oysters and

It's bugged

YOU set out with a trowel and merry heart to liberate some pot-bound prisoners from the florist and before you know it you have chopped a couple of worms in half and wrecked the life's work of innumerable insects, and then, likely as not, predators will demolish your feeble humane defenses and strip your new arrivals to skeletons in couple of nights.

Way West

WHEN Harrison R Crandall first saw Jenny Lake, Wyoming, this area south of Yellowstone was quiet and wild. As Crandall described in a journal entry dated July 1921: "No post offices there. No store — Lake, woods & mts only."

Gallop!

Horsy people... Gallop! In the quiet street where I live there are gardens whose owners make the world a better place by giving pleasure to passers-by. A magnolia touches the heart every spring, with the appearance of its fuzzy, green almond buds. There is the Mexican orange blossom, Chalyta tenax, with its sweet-smelling white and gold flowers, and later on there will be hydrangeas, and berries on the slender rowan plants in intervals in the pavement...

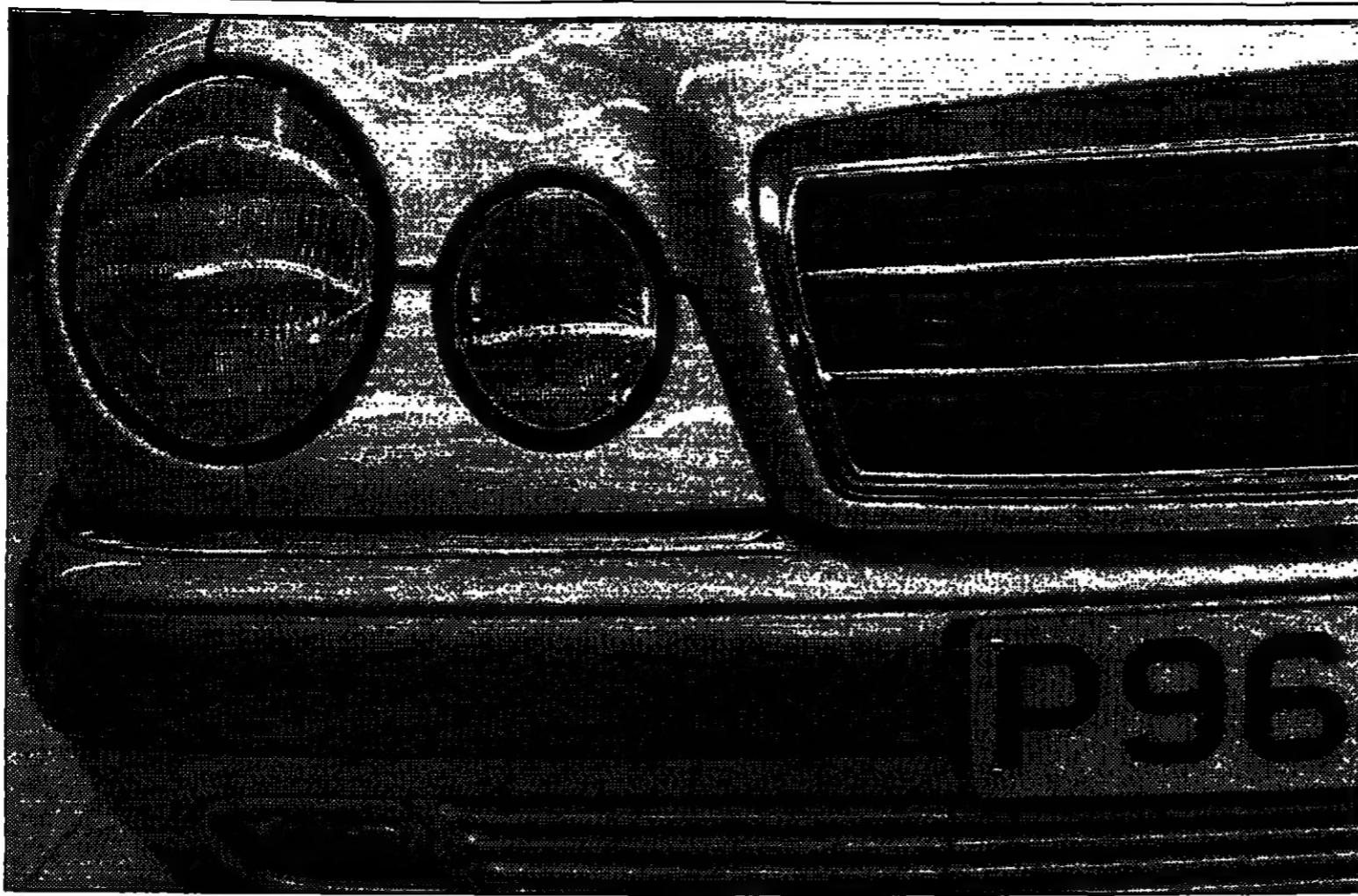
Advertisement for Gallop! magazine, featuring a horse and the text "Ride the Wind" and "Horsy people... Gallop!"

Large advertisement at the bottom of the page, possibly for a book or magazine, with stylized text and graphics.

Motor industry expects record sales to come on a plate, says Simon Beavis



P-power... Mercedes dealer Normand has in its central London showroom just the thing for a date-conscious buyer



P for prosperity

THE rush for P-registration cars yesterday left the motor industry predicting that this month's sales of new vehicles would be the second-highest on record and push the year's car tally over two million.

Making a date with £1m

SALESMAN Keith Hughes earned the title "million pound man" after selling 25 Daimler and Jaguar cars—all for collection yesterday.

reluctant buyers have left them feeling the pinch. Consumers, too, find little to recommend the system unless they have a particular penchant for one-upmanship.

Vauxhall buys car 'intelligence' to avoid the jams tomorrow

Richard Thomas

Vauxhall cars are to be fitted with "intelligent" information systems to guide motorists around traffic snarl-ups, it was announced yesterday.

car — are the selling points," she said. The Oracle system is triggered by beacons spaced at two-mile intervals along motorways, which cut into radio programmes to issue traffic warnings — or flash a red light — and use voice-based technology to describe road conditions.

Problems, problems lurk in gas pipeline

Monopolies inquiry would cap privatised utility's crisis-prone decade, write SIMON BEAVIS and CHRIS BARRIE

BRITISH Gas has become accustomed to living in a state of crisis. But after two years of unbroken crisis — including a political furor over fat-cat pay, soaring customer complaints, and warfare with the rest of the oil and gas world — the privatised company knows that worse could be yet to come.

which will cut the company's revenues by more than \$800 million a year. British Gas sees this as retrospective regulation; in effect, the regulator saying that shareholders got the company on a steal and seeking to grab back past riches.

Clare Spottiswoode responds to howls about lost jobs, profits and dividends with warning that the MMC could be even tougher than she has been



got a taste of the get-rich-quick culture of the 1980s. Others welcomed the chance to sign up for a secure long-term investment and remain part of the continuing army of small shareholders. Now these shareholders are in revolt.

£40 billion of take-or-pay gas contracts which commit it to buying North Sea gas at prices greater than those prevailing in the spot market.

'Animal tail' will be cut shorter

OUTLOOK/Mergers and takeovers are order of the day as the investment trust sector slims down. Ian King reports

ASKED to name the biggest bids launched in 1996, most City folk would probably come up with Rentokil's £2 billion swoop on B.E.T., along with the two-way fight for Lloyd's Chemists and Southern Water.

And with state assets not being sold at quite the bargain basement prices they were in the UK, European privatisations have not offered the bonanzas that they have in Britain.

Table with 3 columns: Bidder, Target, Deal size. Lists investment trust bids such as TR European Growth IT, Regent Kingpin IT, etc.

News in brief

2,000 Names back Lloyd's offer

LLOYD'S £3.2 billion reconstruction plans received a further boost yesterday when nearly 2,000 Names from the Marrett Group voted to accept the offer of £25 million plus expenses.

RBS takes over custody

THE Royal Bank of Scotland further boosted its custody business yesterday with news that it is to pay up to £20 million for SC Warburg's custody and investor services division and certain assets owned by Mercury Asset Management.

Hinchliffe hearing

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, former chairman of collapsed retail group Facis, and fellow director Christopher Harrison will face a boardroom disqualification hearing in January.

Homebase homecoming

SAINSBURY is to buy out the minority partner in its Homebase DIY operation. The company said yesterday it would pay \$65 million for the 26 per cent stake held by Belgian DIY specialist GIB.

Advertisement for Barclays with the headline 'Starting a business? We'll make sure everything shapes up.' Includes an illustration of a house and text about business support services.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Doing rather well over here ... and over there, too



President Clinton, flanked by economic adviser Joe Stiglitz, Vice President Al Gore and National Economic Council chairman Laura Tyson, holds the economic figures. PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN JAFFE

Boom in Britain

Larry Elliott and Sarah Ryle

HOUSE prices are rising at their fastest for almost seven years as consumer confidence returns to levels last seen in the Lawson boom of the late 1980s.

Figures out today from the Halifax Building Society show that the price of property resumed its year-long upward trend last month following the small dip recorded in June.

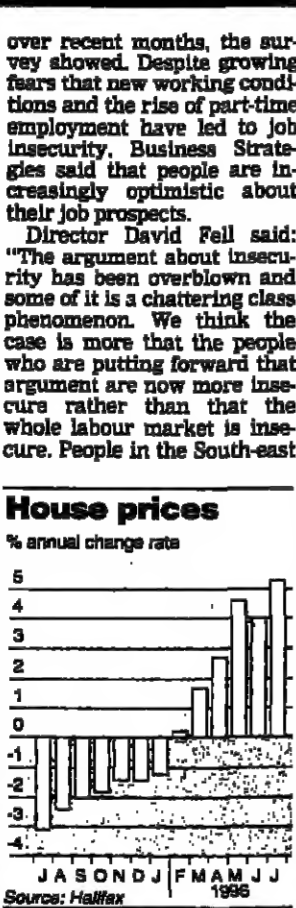
Evidence that lower mortgage rates and the cut-price deals offered by lenders have wooed buyers back into the market is likely to limit the prospects of further cuts in the cost of borrowing.

However, the recovery will help convince the Government that an improving economy can still eliminate Labour's poll lead and deliver a fifth election victory.

The Halifax data coincides with a survey yesterday from the forecasting group Business Strategies, which argued that job insecurity had been blown out of proportion.

Regional variations in levels of economic happiness have been almost eliminated

House prices



Source: Halifax

Boom in the US

Mark Tran in New York

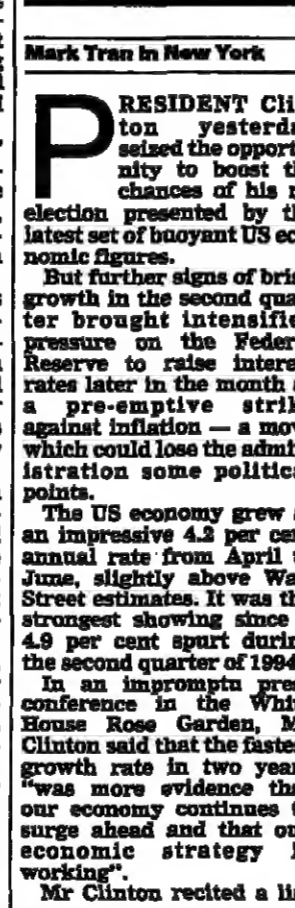
PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday seized the opportunity to boost the chances of his re-election presented by the latest set of buoyant US economic figures.

But further signs of brisk growth in the second quarter brought intensified pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates later in the month as a pre-emptive strike against inflation — a move which could lose the administration some political points.

The US economy grew at an impressive 4.3 per cent annual rate from April to June, slightly above Wall Street estimates. It was the strongest showing since a 4.9 per cent spurt during the second quarter of 1994.

In an impromptu press conference in the White House Rose Garden, Mr Clinton said that the fastest growth rate in two years "was more evidence that our economy continues to surge ahead and that our economic strategy is working".

US growth



Source: OECD

Clinton's figuring

JOHN MAJOR must be casting an envious glance

at the Atlantic where Bill Clinton basks in the sort of opinion poll lead currently being enjoyed by Tony Blair. On present form, the November presidential election looks like being the biggest landslide for the Democrats since Lyndon Johnson trounced Barry Goldwater in 1964.

One of Mr Clinton's big advantages is that fate seems to smile on him. Witness yesterday's economic data, where the increase in the annual growth rate to 4.3 per cent in the second quarter would normally have had the markets baying for the Federal

Notebook

Sign-on fees are unwelcome



Edited by Mark Milner

WHEN it comes to fat cats in the boardroom there often appear to be few to match the privatised companies.

But a survey yesterday shows that — in one area, at least — privatised companies are merely taking a lead from their private sector brethren. Labour Research's study reveals that in the past financial year, 66 directors received golden handshakes of six figures or more, sharing a total of £22.9 million. That was before payments such as the £665,000 expected for Alan Michaels — who quit yesterday as chief executive of cable TV group TeleWest — are taken into account. Only 10 of those payments were made by former government-owned companies.

In recommending that 12 months should be the "normal" length of executive service contract, the Greenbury report was sending a clear signal that such large pay-offs should not be tolerated.

But even more unacceptable is a trend which has emerged since the Greenbury Committee concluded its deliberations. That is the quite unjustifiable practice of paying "golden hellos".

Labour Research shows that six executives collected a combined £1.1 million as they crossed the welcome mat at companies ranging from Sainsbury to Laura Ashley. British Gas is the only privatised group as yet to have picked up on this practice.

It might be argued that golden hellos are needed to persuade top executives to abandon lucrative long term incentive plans with their previous employers. If such are deemed necessary, there are other ways of doing so, however — ways which, moreover, can be linked to performance.

Signing-on fees are simply a nonsense. Sir Ronnie Hampel — Greenbury's quiet successor — should take a look.

Yorkshire sets pace for dividend surge

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

A CONTROVERSIAL new wave of shareholder handouts by privatised electricity companies was launched yesterday when Yorkshire Electricity said it was to boost dividends this year by more than 34 per cent.

The move comes only days after City brokers SBC Warburg predicted that utilities were likely to splash out another £1.3 billion in sweeteners to shareholders before the election, bringing the total handed back to investors in the last three years to more than £7 billion.

Whitehall acts to reassure Greeks

Lisa Buckingham

THE Government has activated a damage limitation exercise to prevent the potential collapse of London's standing as the world's premier shipping centre after a tax raid on Kappa Maritime.

Kappa is owned by Lou Kollakis, one of the most influential Greek shipowners in the capital with a reputed fortune of £250 million.

Chemicals hurt Shell and Hanson

Sarah Whitebloom

CRASHING prices and margins in the chemicals industry yesterday saw Royal Dutch/Shell, Europe's biggest oil company, suffer a fall in profits and the conglomerate Hanson confirm the closure of a chemicals plant.

Market concerns over the state of the industry were heightened by Shell's statement that the difficult trading conditions would continue until there was a significant upturn in the growth of major European economies.

Guardian Crossword No 20,721

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues. The grid is 13x13.

Set by Chionie

- 23 Direct attention to umpire's hesitation (5)
- 24 Hermit's ulcer's troublesome. Ambulance finally here (7)
- 25 Ergo, a country in Africa's a country in Africa (7)
- 26 Small book stolen by one into corruption (6,7)

Down

- 2 Agent loses head and hugs celebrity artist (6)
- 3 Detachment and enign initially get together (6)
- 4 Meets a change and put me in last (6)
- 5 Exaggerates the number of deliveries to the gallery (9)
- 6 Writer got up earlier in the afternoon to produce literary work (6,4)
- 7 Artificial intelligence bears out politician was elsewhere at the time (5)
- 8 Regular's career is a stock type (6,5)
- 9 Often hear door forced to get another drink (3,3,3,4)
- 10 Make the little beast bow and throw (8)
- 11 Exercise is about to stiffen soldiers' disposition (8)
- 12 A briefcase is left with a page (6)
- 13 Toulouse-Lautrec took part in producing what's right (6)

A small advertisement for 'Gunlaw' cuts, featuring a graphic of a gun and the text 'Gunlaw cuts' and 'Inside'.

